

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Death Penalty

Robert Opel's Murderers Convicted

The murderers of South of Market artist/sex celebrity Robert Opel were convicted Monday, December 13, of first degree murder.

Robert Kelly and Maurice Kennan were charged with the August 1979 robbery and murder of Opel in his Howard Street storefront art gallery. He lived in rooms behind the gallery.



Camille O'Grady and the late Robert Opel in a 1979 Rink photo.

Kennan, who pulled the trigger, was also sentenced in the trial's second phase to the death penalty by the six-man/six-woman jury in San Francisco Superior Court. Judge Dandurand presided over the 15-day trial. Fifteen days were also spent on jury

selection. The jury deliberated two days on the murder conviction and spent part of Friday and Monday morning on the death penalty phase. The judge released them over the weekend, returned Monday, and returned their death
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Texas Fundraiser

Houston Gays Nix Dianne Lia Belli Subs Amid Mixed Reactions

by Paul Lorch

Houston's Gay community threw — for it — a mammoth fundraiser last Friday night. That was after its guest of honor, Dianne Feinstein, had been graciously disinherited. The Houston Committee of the Human Rights Campaign Fund had invested eight months of planning in their cocktail reception to raise money for the national Gay political action committee (PAC). For much of the past five months, the problem had been to find a date of mutual agreement between their organization and their first choice. From the first the Houston Committee had their heart set on San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein (in their eyes a champion of Human Rights as well as Gay Rights).

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Lia Belli, chair of the CDC, flew to Houston to save the day for the Human Rights Campaign Fund benefit. Behind her are her twin hosts, the Drs. O'Brien. To HRCF Field Rep. Jim Foster (r.) fell the task of disinviting Dianne Feinstein and finding a replacement. The Bay Area Reporter was on hand.

Supes Toss Gay Benefits Bill Into '83

by Benzry

The Board of Supervisors voted to delay acting on Mayor Feinstein's veto of the Domestic Partners legislation until January 3.

While the issue was first on the agenda of the 2:00 p.m. meeting on Monday, a delay was requested by Harry Britt, who was on a late plane from Washington, D.C.

For an hour observers waited listening to issues such as \$75,000 for the Asian Art Museum. The crowd ranged from lawyers and numerous police to Tenderloin bums and a Santa in shades on crutches who caused the media photographers to shoot rolls of film. The TV spotlights blinded those in the gallery.

At 2:40 Britt arrived, looking well for just coming from the airport. His tailored suit wasn't even wrinkled. At 2:45 President Kopp left for Dallas and Wendy Nelder took the President's chair.

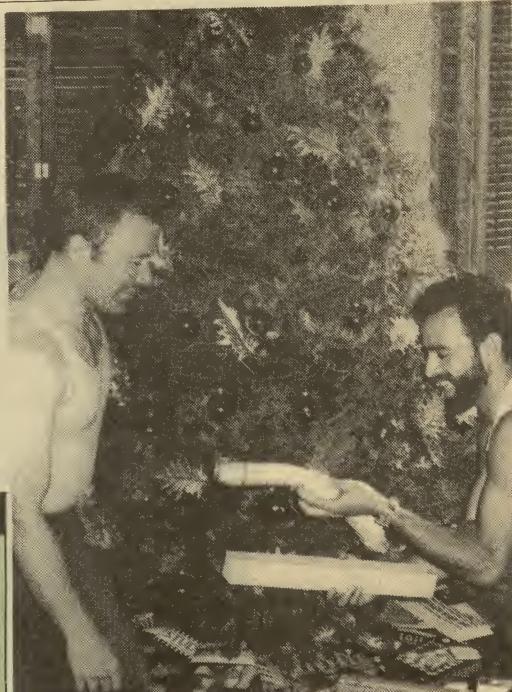
At 3:00 Harry Britt was recognized to discuss the mayor's veto. He spoke to the mayor twice before he left town, to see if she had any serious reservations about the legislation. He left believing she would sign it and was reporting to the Northeast how proud he was of this city. The

mayor did not notify Britt of any reservations about the legislation. "We worked for over one year in a very public process. We had extensive hearings before the board which the mayor monitored." Britt said that all of the mayor's objections "without exception" had been dealt with by the committee. The form they came up with was the proper form of legislation for this subject. As to the concern that this legislation was unfair to relatives was not considered, Britt stated that this was addressed in detail. "Our present law on the books refers to spouse, husband, wife, not to children, brothers, sisters, grandmothers. We never even heard of that problem before [the unfairness to relatives]." Their advisors said opening benefits up to relatives would have "disastrous actuarial implications." Kaiser said they would have no problem with domestic partners

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Christmas in the Castro/Upper Market. The Jaguar Book Store leads the way with two of its employees opening packages under the tree . . . Story and more pictures on pages 12 and 13.
(Photo Rink)

Some of the Loose Threads Before, During and After the Mayor's Veto

by George Mendenhall

Supervisor John Molinari and Gay attorney Tom Horn revealed this week that after talking with the mayor she was going to sign the domestic partners legislation. Supervisor Harry Britt, who authored the ordinance, left on a national speaking tour, also convinced that the mayor would not veto. Was the mayor really in doubt as to what she was going to do until the last minute when she suddenly vetoed and announced it at a crowded press conference?

The challenge of putting together legislation that will be acceptable to the mayor is again in the hands of the Board of Supervisors' Civil Service Committee. It will now meet in an attempt to put together an ordinance that is acceptable to the mayor. Supervisors Louise Renne and Willie Kennedy have stated that they will not vote to override the mayor's veto. The revision will go before the board again on January 3 in order to meet the 30-day deadline that the board has to respond to a veto. Three people who vigorously support the legislation comprise the Civil Service Committee — Chair Carol Ruth Silver, Britt and Molinari.

CONSULTATIONS

The mayor talked with her Lesbian/Gay Advisory Committee about the bill but it appeared that the private consultations that swayed in the final hours were basically outside the Gay community. Her Gay aide and close friend, Peter Nardoza, told a Toklas Democratic Club meeting this week, "I've worked for Diane for over seven years and I have never seen her agonize over a piece of legislation as she did this one." The mayor herself said it was the toughest decision she has ever made. Telephone calls and letters flooded her office — mostly favoring a veto. It was learned that religious leaders, Blacks, and Hispanics were protesting the measure.

Feinstein took materials home and made additional telephone calls to get reactions late into the night. She had at least one meeting at her home — attended by her husband, Richard Blum-Molinari, Deputy Mayor Hadley Roff, aide Jim Gonzales, and Clint Riley. Although the mayor later denied that there were any political considerations in her decision, Riley's presence is significant, as he will run the mayor's 1984 re-election campaign. It was after this meeting with close

friends that Molinari said he was convinced that she would not veto. A message urging a veto from Archbishop John Quinn was distributed.

To some the legislation itself appeared "harmless" (a word used by one of its supporters, Supervisor Richard Hongisto). The ordinance's author, attorney Matt Coles, saw it as a major piece of legislation. Britt called it a "definition which says that we should not make moral judgments when two human beings come to us and say that they love one another."

The legislation would make into law what is now common practice — an allowance for visitation rights by domestic partners in city jails and hospitals. It also establishes that in the future the city is to include such partners when "marriages" are referred to legislatively and to establish city health benefits paid by the single partners, as is now done for married partners. It is this later provision that irked hospital plan officials. The major city employees' union supported the ordinance.

STATED REASONS

Feinstein's reasons for vetoing were varied. She told reporters she wanted to further explore the possibility of including sisters, brothers, and parents. In addition, she questioned the implications of including single partners in the future when "Marriage" was considered as a factor in legislation. She repeatedly said she had "not been consulted by Harry Britt" ... Britt said that he went on his speaking tour because the mayor had not responded after he had urged her to contact him if she had any doubts about the legislation. Feinstein did contact attorney Coles the day before the veto to discuss one section. He assured her that the section had been approved by the City Attorney.

ARCHBISHOP QUINN

Newspapers across the

country spread the word of the mayor's veto and directly related it to the mayor's reaction to a letter from Archbishop John Quinn. While the mayor insisted that the letter from Quinn was only "one of many factors" in her deliberations, it resulted in a flood of mail and telephone calls urging her veto. The mayor telephoned Quinn personally to discuss the matter further.

Quinn, in his most damning denunciation of the singles lifestyle to date, wrote that the legislation "contradicts and imperils the deepest values of our common, public moral heritage and damages the fundamental well being of society." He urged that its adoption would be a "radical repudiation of fundamental values and institutions" ... The church press office later denied that the statement was made in order to influence political decisions. The mayor herself said she did not think Quinn's moral statement infringed on the separation of church and state.

All the same, Supervisor Molinari and some Gay activists called for an appreciation of the fact that Feinstein had consistently supported Gay rights issues in the past. In answer to a question from this reporter she had told her press conference, "I try to make people understand the Gay movement wherever I speak across the world — making people understand our city's position of tolerance."

Aide Nardoza pleaded that the mayor agonized for over a week that her decision would be taken as a veto of certain lifestyles. Feinstein told one reporter, "When you begin thinking about it, there are enormous philosophical questions" in regard to the legislation. There was also a question of whether there were enormous religious questions put into the mayor's mind. She received the archbishop's letter plus a protest from the Black Ministers As-

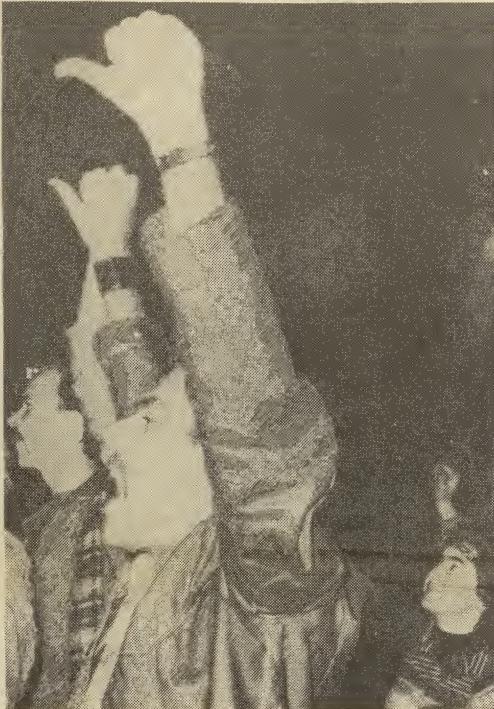
sociation. At a private meeting with her Gay commissioners she said that a good beginning for the Gay community might be for them to consult with the religious community. It was obvious that the mayor was feeling considerable pressure from those with "moral" concerns about sanctifying live-in relationships.

POLITICAL REASONS

Feinstein stressed that she could accept a defeat in the coming 1984 re-election campaign because she knew what she did was right. She added that she doesn't expect to lose the election. It was clear that she and campaign manager Riley had concluded that the mayor could win even if the gay community

tacked the mayor for saying the legislation is vague: "It is not vague. The only thing that is vague is why she vetoed it." Milk Club president Gwenn Craig said she was "feeling betrayed, because Feinstein has enjoyed the support of the Gay community. But we'll take that sense of betrayal to the polling places next November."

The most prolonged ovation went to Stonewall Club president Paul Boneberg when he shouted, "I've had a relationship with my lover longer than she's had with her current husband." Rev. Jim Sandmire urged Quinn to "Read your Bible again" and Sister Missionary Position called for a march to St. Mary's Cathedral to protest



A Gay protest at City Hall Thursday, December 9. The crowd was estimated anywhere from 250 to 700. (Photo: Rink)

went elsewhere. Speculation surfaced that placed Supervisor Richard Hongisto and Governor Jerry Brown as mayoral candidates.

Numerous Gay activists and Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver speculated that Feinstein has long-range national political ambitions and that this affected her decision. The rationale was that since San Francisco is perceived by many as "kook capital" it was wise for the mayor to indicate that she "has the Gays under control." The mayor emphatically denied any national aspirations but Supervisor Silver insisted that Feinstein's national image was a major consideration.

CITY HALL RALLY

A hurriedly organized Gay demonstration at City Hall Thursday night resulted in a few speakers addressing a crowd of 700 and a march to St. Mary's Cathedral, led by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Near City Hall were twenty police officers, some in "tac squad" jumpsuits, who expressed surprise that the demonstration was a relatively mild affair.

Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver was the primary speaker, using a bullhorn once used by Harvey Milk on the same City Hall steps. She stressed, "The American ideal of family takes forms other than mama, papa and 2.3 children. We are family." Attorney Matt Coles at-

the archbishop's involvement. Over 150 joined him in the journey up Polk Street behind the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, who held up a huge "Dump Dianne" banner.

The cathedral demonstration, lighted by television camera lights, centered about an encircled group who held a service that denounced the archbishop for his lack of humanity. Randy Schell of CUAV received little support when he emphasized, "The archbishop is not the church." Some shouted, "Archcloset Queen."

Earlier in the day, three former Catholics led by attorney John Wahl posted a "thesis" on the wall of the cathedral calling for the archbishop to reject the historical religious oppression against Gay people. (Police Chief Con Murphy had been disturbed during the afternoon when he heard that "feces" — not "thesis" — was going to be placed on the door of the church.)

PRE-VETO MEETING

Twelve Gay commissioners and close Gay friends of the mayor met with her just before the veto press conference. The session, called together by Human Rights Commission president Phyllis Lyon, was to discuss the rumored veto. While over 100 reporters and TV personnel waited outside, the commis-

(Continued on next page)

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Boom Boom Leads 2nd Protest at RC Cathedral

60 Slam Archbishop and Mayor

by Konstantin Berlandt

While Archbishop John Quinn was inside saying mass, some 60 people marched in a circle outside St. Mary's Cathedral at Geary and Gough Streets Sunday afternoon protesting Quinn's public criticism last week of the proposed "domestic partners" ordinance since vetoed by Mayor Dianne Feinstein. The rally lasted from 1:00 until 2:30 p.m.

Demonstrators chanted slogans against both Quinn and Feinstein. For instance, one against the mayor: "She sold her sisters for a new red hat," suggesting a desire by the mayor to win a Catholic cardinal appointment for the city.

Quinn in a public letter to the mayor last week called the proposed legislation "inimical to marriage and the family which are the foundations of society." Wrote the archbishop of the local diocese, "To reduce the sacred covenant of marriage and family,

by inference or analogy, to a 'domestic partnership' is offensive to reasonable persons and injurious to our legal, cultural, moral and societal heritage," and adding such a law would be a "radical repudiation of fundamental values." The ordinance stated that



Boom Boom leads a contingent to St. Mary's Cathedral Sunday afternoon, December 12. (Photo: Rink)

anywhere the city referred to "marriage" as a criterion for something (such as hospital and jail visitations, bereavement leave, and potential enrollment in a city employee paid medical insurance plan) the word "domestic partners" would be added alongside.

The rally was organized by last month's Gay supervisor candidate Sister Boom Boom and Randy Schell, a member of the Archdiocese Task Force on Gay and Lesbian Issues, that recently issued a report critical of Church stands on the Gay community and within the Church.

Boom Boom, who won over 22,000 votes in the November election, stood up on a pillar in the light drizzle and delivered a few of the one-liners for which he has become infamous.

Not the first to compare the oddly shaped cathedral behind him to the spindle on a washing machine, Boom Boom suggested the protesters had come to Mary Maytag to "agitate that fucker" and urged the Church to "come clean" of bigotry. Holding a sign, "Closet Quinn," and referring to the archbishop as "His Ass Holiness," Boom

Boom said, "The ring around his collar is strangling us. But we'll put him on a spin cycle he won't believe."

Finally, the former supervisor candidate whom many have urged to run for mayor next year, stuck out his behind in the direction of the cathedral and concluded, "Archbishop Quinn, you can kiss my ring."

Sister Boom Boom maintained that contrary to Quinn's insistence, "We are not tearing at the fabric of theology, we're just letting out the seams for a better fit because we are a growing society."

Boom Boom continued, "I'm sorry to say that at no time soon will we see the Church abolished — or even taxed!" but, "We are building and creating our own rights until the Church has to accommodate us."

Other chants during the two-hour protest included "Disarm the Nuclear Family" and "Before the Breeders React — Act!" and also "Nazis, Bishops, Cops and Klan Work Together Hand in Hand," and, very simply, "Hey Hey, Ho Ho, Quinn and Feinstein got to go!" ■

Loose Threads

(Continued from previous page)
sioners heavily criticized the mayor for her pending act. Police Commissioner Jo Daly, who was once bound to her Lesbian lover in a ceremony (since dissolved) in the mayor's garden appeared emotionally shattered as she urged, "This veto will be perceived as an anti-Gay act across the country." Human Rights Commissioner Richard

Sevilla agreed as he told the mayor, "This will be a slap in the face to us nation-wide."

The mayor explained her reasons, but the commissioners were clearly not convinced. Several of them issued a statement later urging the mayor to work diligently on a revision that she could accept.

George Mendenhall

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The Questions and The Answers

This is a condensation of Mayor Dianne Feinstein's press conference announcing her veto of the Domestic Partners' legislation. There was a minor editing due to space limitations.

I do this not as a comment on any lifestyle, but because the legislation itself is vague and unclear. The ordinance neither defines what it will do, suggests its cost or makes clear how it can be administered. Consequently, it is becoming an instrument of division and dissent in our city.

There is a striking confusion and division about how the legislation will affect the community. Some see the legislation as "cosmetic," some as destructive to marriage, some as recognizing the needs of a large number of single citizens. But it is clear that in the construction of the legislation, there is uncertainty as to meaning, interpretation, and impact.

I have conferred with lawyers, including those who helped draft the legislation, and disagreement is particularly profound over the meaning of Section 46.2 (a): "Whenever the City and County of San Francisco uses marriage as a factor in making any decision... it shall use domestic partnership in the same way." This clause is subject to various interpretations. Even some lawyers who support the measure say the language is inconclusive and unclear as to what rights, if any, it may bestow.

The ordinance purports to provide for visitation rights and bereavement leaves; yet these already are provided administratively. It proposes the extension of health insurance coverage for City employees to non-related partners, yet the Charter makes clear this authority rests exclusively with the Health Service System.

HEALTH CARE

The Health Service System itself reports that under this legislation, there is no way to predict the cost of higher premiums for city employees, who would have to shoulder the full expense. And, while providing benefits to some, the ordinance denies them to others because they are related. This is inequitable, and it is therefore unacceptable to me.

Furthermore, the provision of the ordinance that would permit persons who live together for as little as a day to declare themselves domestic partners, apparently, is without binding legal obligation of mutual responsibility.

I happen to believe that a health insurance system should have to accept dependents, maybe in a higher premium category. I have problems with creating one class of favored dependents over another.

I realize that with the 8 to 3 vote by the Board in support of the legislation it may go into law without me. But I must point out the legislation was drafted and enacted without consulting me.

On a personal level, this legislation causes me deep anguish. I would like to be able to sign legislation which recognizes the need of single persons, who make up the majority here in San Francisco. But such legislation must be equitable in its application, beneficial in its result, and must not divide our community.

I met with a group of Gay commissioners and expressed my willingness to sit down and see if we cannot draft legislation that does not run into the problems that this legislation has run into. I am pleased to embark on that effort.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

Q: Do you think this is a threat to marriage? Is it a moral issue?

A: What I personally feel or do not feel is not the issue. I am not going to moralize over any of this. The clergy out there are free to express their views... I asked an attorney if there was a way of writing this legislation so it does not relate to marriage. We met with attorneys and they do not have a way. Already it is too late, it has come over here (to my office). I feel that there may be a way and I think we should look at it.

Q: Isn't this a "no win" situation for you?

A: Well, I am in a "no win" situation no matter what I do in this area. The political advice, quite frankly, has been to sign it. I wrestled with this for a long time. I also came to the conclusion that if I signed legislation that I did not find to be good for the people of this city, I do not deserve to be mayor. It may make being mayor a lot harder but in the long run I do not think that this community would respect what I do.

Q: Isn't it a problem with you that this legislation would set up an acceptable, new type of relationship other than marriage?

A: What are the standards we are talking about for registration, what are the mutual obligations that an affidavit can be signed by both parties will bring on — both for themselves and to the city? This is a very acute problem... This is new ground. Marriage has hundreds of years of law to grow up around it and be defined in court cases. This is a brand new area — not something that you can sweep through in a month...

Q: Was the archbishop's statement an attempt to influence this legislation and wasn't that a conflict between church and state?

A: I called the archbishop to find out what his thoughts were and he indicated that he felt very strongly about it. He could not remain quiet. This is his position. I respect him as a man and as a religious leader. I also realize that often his views and mine are different... The problems that the archbishop cited are central to the position of the church. I think that we listen and try to understand what the sensitivities are, but it does not mean that the church and state are going to be the same... I consider what he said and what others said. There was no moral statement that had an overwhelming sway with me.

Q: (from Bay Area Reporter columnist Wayne Friday):

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Dianne Feinstein making one of the more difficult decisions of her mayoral career. She is seen here speaking at a hastily called City Hall press conference at 10 a.m. on December 9. (Photo: Rink)

Mayor, this legislation has been around for 30 days at least. Don't you think this last-minute response is grandstanding?

A: The charter gives the mayor 10 days to sign, veto, or do nothing about new legislation. I did not have the legislation for 30 days. There should be no problem with a mayor taking whatever time is needed within the allowed period of consideration... No supervisor came in here and discussed this legislation with me while it was before the board. I spoke with Supervisor Harry Britt at lunch about it, and he indicated that this legislation was forthcoming and that he wanted to discuss it with me. But no one came in to discuss it with me... More recently I talked with five supervisors and I am under the impression that they are concerned because the legislation went through the way it did with very little discussion, with very little discussion.

POLITICAL PROBLEMS

Q: What will this do to you politically? What will it do to the rapport you have had with the Gay community in the past?

A: It is a set-back. It makes it hard. A lot of people feel hurt and I do not want to hurt them. That is why I feel anguish. I think many of them do not know what is actually in the legislation. I really believe it is possible to put forward a piece of legislation or authentication, a registration, or whatever you want to call it, of a relationship that is going to endure... I recognize that there are changing lifestyles in this city. I recognize that while 20 or 30 years ago this was not the case, today people live with each other for all kinds of reasons. What they are asking for here, is that if there is a stable, dependable relationship that that relationship have the opportunity to be authenticated. There is a whole other issue that comes with this — what kind of benefits come with that.

Q: Would you then support legislation that authenticated Gay relations?

A: I would endorse legislation that provides for a procedure of authentication for a relationship, to enable that relationship to endure, to be stable, to set up mutual obligations, responsibilities.

MARRIAGE EROSION?

Q: Would this legislation erode the principle of Marriage?

A: No, I do not think it will. The principal purpose of marriage is the possibility of creating a family. That is what the marriage act was originally created for. It is one thing in theology and another thing in civil law. A whole body of civil law has gone on for hundreds of years — defining marriage, settling property rights, providing for dissolution, custody, credit, internal revenue service — so when you go into marriage you know what obligations you incur. I think that is important in this area. It is important to do this separate. We are not talking about marriage, we are talking about a partnership.

Q: (from B.A.R. writer George Mendenhall) Will you openly and aggressively fight for the kind of legislation that you think will be "proper" legislation or will you take a passive position on this issue in the future?

A: I gave assurances to the Gay commissioners earlier that I would do this. Yes. Let me say this. I go out all over this world. I speak to defend this city. I try to make people understand the Gay movement — making people understand our city's position of tolerance, of the contribution of the Gay community to this city. I do the same thing in Hong Kong, in Italy and later today in Houston. I think I have done a pretty good job of making people understand this... I also believe what I say about this. In order to defend in the future, I have got to have the right document for this city. This is not the document now that I can go out and defend. This is concerned with my participation in the process. I am the mayor. I am also a person. My participation in this process means that my input has to be put into that document too.

Q: Did you think that signing this document would hurt you in the future if you run for national office?

A: I have no intention of pursuing a career in national office. I only have the intention of being a good mayor. I would like to have a second time at that — although this is not an announcement.

Q: Are you receiving an award from some Gay organization in Houston tomorrow night?

A: Not an award. I am a speaker, if they will accept me. It is my luck that my appearance there will be at the worst possible time.

Daytime Attack in the Castro

Thugs Lay in Ambush, Noe between 18th & 19th

At 3:30 in the afternoon on December 9, Thomas Morrison was returning to his car. The vehicle was parked perpendicular on Noe Street, on the hill between 18th and 19th Streets. His back to the sidewalk, Morrison fumbled with his keys when he was hit from behind and fell to the ground from a kick in the small of the back. He rose, turning to see three, and quite possibly more, Latino youths. As he turned he was hit in the forehead with an iron bar and knocked unconscious.

When Morrison came to he was bleeding profusely from a wound just over his eye. His wallet and money were gone. He managed to drive home and call a friend for help before passing out again. He says he went into shock. The friend took him to General Hospital where he was treated for lacerations to his head, back, shoulders, and legs and a slight concussion.

A policeman arrived to take a report, and Morrison hesitated. Before knocking him out, his attacker had said, "If you call the cops on us, we'll torch your house."

Morrison conjectures that the youths lay in wait behind an embankment on the steep hill, so that he didn't see them.

"I thought it was a safe neighborhood," he told the B.A.R. "I carry Mace but did not have time to get it out. I'm lucky I didn't lose my eye. I was just getting my keys out and not paying attention."

Morrison, a 35-year old self-employed man, feels the attack was Gay related due to the attackers' manner of addressing him and has filed reports with CUAV and Supervisor Harry Britt's office.

Streetcar Stalls

Tennessee Williams is back in the news again, this time taking legal action to make sure that one of his plays is spared the effect of Hollywood star-casting. If you were to cast **A Streetcar Named Desire** with one of today's leading screen idols, who would fit the role of Stanley Kowalski better than Sylvester Stallone? That's what Stallone thought and promptly announced plans to produce, direct, and star in a new production of the Williams epic which made Marlon Brando the hottest man in the hearts of Gay men in the 1950s. It was Brando, too, who put the sex into torn T-shirts.

Alas, Tennessee Williams just about gagged at the thought of Stallone in the role and went to court with his copyright, even inserting a clause in his will to prevent Stallone from playing the role as long as he (Stallone) lives. Says Philadelphia's Frank Broderick: "It just goes to show that when a Southern lady of good quality like Thomas Lanier Williams gets her dander up, watch out!"

Alice Debates Spousal Veto

by Margaret Frost

Homophobia versus economic issues was the theme in the first community discussion of the Mayor's veto of the domestic partners legislation, held at the Alice B. Toklas Memorial Democratic Club meeting Monday night.

Supervisor Harry Britt, fresh from a Board meeting which continued a motion to override the veto until January 3, named San Francisco Archbishop John Quinn as the major proponent of a homophobe backlash that led to the veto.

Peter Nardoza, who was representing Mayor Feinstein, said that her objections were based on specific provisions rather than the concept.

"In the coverage this received in the press all over the country the first paragraph was 'Feinstein vetoes,' the second was the Archbishop saying it was a courageous act to protect the family against the erosion of moral values," Britt pointed out.

"We've been fighting with fundamentalist Christians for a long time," he continued. "maybe it's time we engage the more respectable leadership — the councils of rabbis, the councils of Protestant churches, and the Roman Catholic archbishops. They have got to come to terms with what the message of our movement is."

Homophobia, said Britt, "has become the real issue with this legislation whether anybody wants it to or not. At this point your stance on this legislation has come to mean whether you are going to identify with the persons who see our lifestyle as a threat to the family or whether you are going to stand up to recognize the reality of the needs of the community."

Nardoza, a Gay man who serves as administrative assistant to the Mayor, expressed a different viewpoint. "I believe that the Mayor vetoed a piece of legislation, not a lifestyle. If I didn't believe this, I wouldn't be working in City Hall today." Nardoza acknowledged that much of the public reaction showed a homophobic bent, but added, "It was amazing, the number of letters that came in in opposition to this legislation that didn't speak to Gay men and Lesbians."

Supervisor John Molinari, who was commended by Britt for his help in preparing and lobbying for the bill, also disagreed with the "Gay vs. straight" assessment. "I have a lot of straight friends who support this legislation and tell me to continue to support it. But there have been some perceptions in the public press about the legislation that really haven't characterized it fairly. When you talk to people about this legislation they think it does and means all

sorts of things other than it means and does.

"We need help to change some misconceptions," Molinari went on. "Each of you has to be a missionary telling people exactly what this legislation means."

Britt responded to some of



Alice's scheduled discussion got short shrift in light of the spousal rights veto — (l. to r.) Jim Buick, George Mendenhall, and Bill Paul. (Photo: Rink)

the objections outlined by the Mayor in her veto letter.

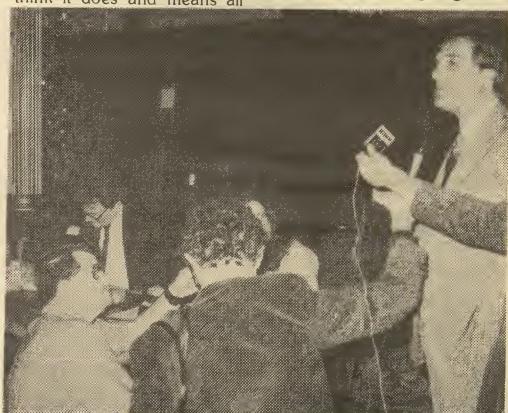
• *Language is unclear* — "I think the opposite is true. It says whenever the city uses marriage as a criterion it should treat domestic partners the same way. It's comprehensive."

• *The Board of Supervisors can't force the Health Service system to implement it* — In the real world, the Health Service system would implement this if the Mayor made it clear to them that that was her intention."

• *It would have a negative effect on the actuarial system* — "We had assurance from Kaiser that providing the one-year waiting period would take care of any actuarial concerns. For her to suggest that we hadn't done our work on that was irresponsible."

• *It's unfair not to put relatives on, too* — "Right now, if you're married, your husband or wife gets benefits — other relatives don't. Now when we want to put our lovers on, all of a sudden that becomes discrimination. The actuarial implications of doing that are so severe it would probably destroy our whole health service system."

• *You can be a domestic partner after living together*



Supervisor John Molinari speaks on the mayor's veto at Alice's Monday night meeting. (Photo: Rink)

one day — "How long do you have to live together to get married? If she wants to amend the marriage laws to require a period of cohabitation before marriage, then we'll have the archbishop on our side."

• *The proposal is divisive* — "In the South, when blacks and whites wanted to marry that was considered divisive, too. You have the same kind of fearful backlash from people who don't understand how people could want to do such a thing."

All three men expressed optimism that some agree-

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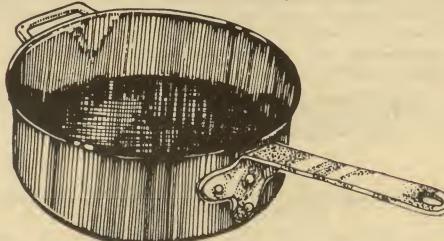
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VOL. XII NO. 50 DECEMBER 16, 1982

NEXT ISSUE OUT: DEC. 23

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VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

Spousal Split

Nothing in recent memory has triggered the writing arm of the local Gay community more than the Mayor's spiking of Harry Britt's spousal's rights bill.

Even a clutch of the Mayor's Gay / Lesbian commissioners have broken wind and let her know (and the immediate world) their displeasure. We will see if their dismay is so great as to lead to their resignation.

The Mayor is now the villain — no shred of doubt left on that one — right where the Britties have wanted to put her for the past two years. What more evidence do we need; she has shown her true colors. She has vetoed a bill that was number one priority on the Gay agenda. And over these holiday weeks the vilification of Dianne Feinstein will be the number one order of the political clubs, the marching societies, the platform builders, and the microphone hog callers, and the Bay Area Reporter. It took courage to march on St. Mary's, the Roman Catholic Cathedral. Yet one wonders how much courage it would have taken to march on Feinstein's synagogue. Or what courage would it have taken to storm a Black Baptist outlet in the Western Addition.

★ ★ ★

After mostly a decade of watching the antics of the local Gay community, I have a sinking suspicion that on this one — as per usual we have about one third our marbles.

I wonder if I in 150 gays knew anything about the spousal rights bill until the Mayor vetoed it. I doubt that even at this point the same percentage care. I doubt even now not one in 50 Gays have read the ordinance — even those most vociferously crying out against its veto.

To those who say they care — and in particular to those so keen on the political process — what steps did each personally take to get the bill into law. What was the strategy? What happened to the grand coalition — all those bridges — who bothered to cross them. Make phone calls, line up other minority activists. No, somebody decided — and it wasn't the Gay community at large — that the project was a piece of cake. Just whip it up, slip it through — go on the Phil Donahue show — and that's that.

The measure failed — and that's what Gays are saying around the nation — because we failed. We failed to do our preliminaries — our homework. Middle America churchies barked loud, and we were caught with our pants down.

Dianne complained bitterly up until the 11th hour that Harry Britt had never come to her to seek support of the ordinance. Harry Britt's (he's on the East Coast as his flagship piece of legislation is being sunk) office complains that Mayor Feinstein never came to see them. And sensing that spousal rights is not a billet doux — what would you or I or anyone else do to some enemies' sandcastle. We'd squash it.

Well, who's the loser? We've got no bill. What we have got is two new public enemy number ones: Dianne and Arch. John. (Let's not target the rabbi or the Black Baptist ministers). And the bill's author is home free.

And now that it's all over, let me confide to whoever cares. I've never seen a copy of the bill — dereliction like everyone else. I've only read about it. From that I think parts of it sucked. Did last week. Did this week and will continue to do so until someone makes it palatable for this gay man to swallow. I think the "marriage licensing" and the fees laughable. If I can't swallow it, how can I ever expect a non-Gay person to buy it. And on the territory it poaches upon (one of the church's last game preserves — marriage) could we expect anything less than a shriek heard round the world?

To me if we can't do these legislations well — why even bother. The world out there is not waiting for us to tell it to lie down so we can plow it under.

P. Lorch

"Y" SEX

* I'm at a loss and need support. Several months ago I joined the Golden Gate YMCA in hopes to exercise and enjoy the facilities. Much to my disappointment, the place is like a bathhouse. Sex is either overtly done in the steamroom or the dryroom. When letters are written to "Jamie" the head of this Y they are overlooked. The "straight" staff laugh at the gays and many unpleasant remarks are passed among them. With the support of other gay brothers who also disapprove of this activity — e.g., also writing letters could help stop all this sex. Between the 8th floor bathroom and the steamroom/dryroom sex areas it is very uncomfortable to say the least.

I ask — who else would one contact?

J. Doyle

FRANCHISING THE CASTRO

* I am so glad to see that we finally got some corporate franchises, like Hallmark & Fotomat, etc., to move into the Castro. I never have trusted any of these local independent stores. Heck, how can ya trust a place that's never even been on the television?

Now if only we could get some decent restaurants to open up in the Castro. You know, like Burger King or Pioneer Chicken — places you can trust — you know. And after that, maybe we could get some real "All American" clothing stores to move in like Millers Outpost or the Gap. Surely their corporate executives must realize what a lucrative market the Castro would be. (Research indicates fags just love to wear jeans). And of course those trendy designer furniture stores are a "must go." What we need is some normal furniture stores like Sofabed Conspiracy or Furniture USA.

Of course you realize all these wonderful changes won't happen overnight and it will require an effort on our part. If we want more corporate franchises to move into the Castro, we've got to make sure the ones that have already moved in are successful.

John Hancock
San Francisco

PRIDE DINNER

* The Pride Foundation's Thanksgiving dinner at Pride Center was a great success. We served over two hundred people from different backgrounds. The noon-time dinner was a wonderful return of our Holiday tradition.

The Pride Foundation wishes to acknowledge and thank the following individuals, organizations and businesses whose contributions and participation made the dinner possible: Skippy Taylor, Club Dori, Le Domino, S.F. Tavern Guild, Neen Chicken, Sutter's Mill, Casa Loma Hotel, Cafe San Marcos, Civic Center Travelodge, Safeway Inc., Twin Peaks Tavern, Midnight Sun, Ivy's, Amelia's, Moby Dick, Jim Budke M.D., Ken Mills M.D., Jeff Goodrich, Flickie Fox, Kimball's Trinity Place, Hot 'n' Chunky, Castro Gardens, Michael Brenner (NYC), Private Collection Florists, Arch Wilson, Henry Chappell, Roger Zetterlund, Joel Woodward, Bob Houdersheldt, Daved Ley, Jim Hugheson, Jim Morell, Bruce Sabey, Ruth Zukerman, Michael Kondrup, Keith Deen, Mike Ashlock, Ingrid Miller, Gary Seeger, Celeste Austin, Bob Sandmeyer, Leanna Davis, Mark Dutka, Jared Goldfine, Bay Area Reporter, Sentinel, The Voice and Jim Hailey.

The Foundation encourages the community to support those who contributed to making the dinner possible.

Persons interested in helping with the Christmas Day Dinner should contact Jim Hailey at the Pride Center, phone 863-9000.

Larry Long, President
Don Coggin, Dinner Coordinator

DE MORTUIS NIL NISI BONUM

* People in politics get used to criticism, even to hatchet jobs.

But the article purporting to "profile" Harry Britt's aide, Dana Van Gorder, hit a new low in journalistic cruelty.

The article was outrageous.

The "profile" bore absolutely no resemblance to the Dana that any of his acquaintances know. While the author indulged in a series of rather vicious swipes at Van Gorder, he completely ignored the substance of Van Gorder's role as a City Hall aide.

Since Dana went to work in Britt's office, three major Britt-initiated proposals have passed. They include the creation of an office to deal with complaints of police brutality, significant funding for services related to KS, and the establishment of the beginning of equal rights for domestic partners.

These were not small accomplishments. Every one of these issues has a fundamental impact on how gay people live in this city. Every one involves in some way the setting of a national precedent. And every one was guided through in part by Dana Van Gorder.

The New York Times and Washington Post found these issues significant enough to merit major coverage. How, then, could this "profile" fail even to mention them?

Surely our community has gotten beyond the point of gossip as journalism. And surely we have passed the time when we feel the need to savage every gay person who manages to succeed at something.

No one would suggest that Dana — or Harry Britt, if that's who the author was really after — shouldn't be criticized whenever someone thinks they're wrong.

God knows, there's been no shortage of that — but this particular piece was way out of line.

Bill Kraus
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: A hotchot job in the trade is one wherein an author deliberately sets out to hurt o pre-established target.

Scott Treimel is new to San Francisco. He knew none of the City Hall aides before he contacted them. He had no political bias, no axe to grind. Least of all was he "after" Harry Britt. Treimel's credentials are that he is bright, insightful, and while young he is not easily hoodwinked. Above all he is an exceptional writer. He was asked to do the assignment. He accepted and went on his way — he had no instructions to point that one pretty or that one ugly. He did the interviews over a span of several months. None were printed until the series was in the con.

The subjects were depicted as they presented themselves to and through his lens. To call his work "outrageous" seems a strong case of overkill. The general response has been "bullseye."

P. Lorch

TURKEY HELP

* Just wanted to take a moment to thank you for your cooperation on our Thanksgiving projects.

As a result of your excellent coverage, we placed over 70 volunteers in several nonprofit agencies. There were numerous other volunteers that called agencies directly to offer their services.

Thank you again for your assistance in this campaign. We look forward to working with you in future campaigns.

Sheila M. Keene
Public Relations
Volunteer Bureau of San Francisco



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LETTERS

ANGLICAN SUPPORT

Dear Mayor Feinstein:

Roman Catholic Archbishop Quinn demonstrates again his insensitivity and callousness regarding gay people. He advocates the rejection of the San Francisco Supervisors' action granting certain rights to homosexual and heterosexual couples who share the necessities of life and who file sworn statements that they are each other's domestic partners.

We Christians take marriage between heterosexuals seriously. We take committed relationships less so. It is time we, the church, realize that people do not always fit the mold we assume they should. We normally do not permit homosexuals to marry. We then condemn them for not being committed and call them promiscuous.

I believe the church is called upon by God to examine what commitment and love are all about in gay people.

I have members of Trinity Church who are gay and committed to each other in deeply sacramental relationships. I cannot see their connection to be any less powerful because the church refuses to recognize their marriage.

Archbishop Quinn is quite wrong in thinking the proposed legislation will undermine traditional marriage. It enhances marriage. It says relationships of depth and commitment ought to be supported by private and public funds. The more committed people get to each other the more loving, caring and nurturing the whole society becomes.

Robert Warren Cromey
Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church
San Francisco

DAMN THE ARCHBISHOP

★ For more than twenty-five years I have been vocal in my condemnation of religion, in general and Roman Catholicism, in particular.

Major Dianne Feinstein, by capitulating to the dictates of Archbishop John Quinn, thereby compromising the Constitutional prohibition re religious interference in affairs of government, has given my atheistic advocacy credible respectability.

Thomas M. Edwards
San Francisco

GAY SCIENTISTS SOCKO COWARDS

★ The Lesbian & Gay Associated Engineers and Scientists (LGAES) of San Francisco and Santa Clara County wish to denounce the moral cowardice of Mayor Feinstein and Supervisor Kennedy in the face of bigotry in regards to proposed ordinance #257-82-4 (Spousal Rights Bill).

We would like to declare that we find Archbishop Quinn and Rev. Riley ethically offensive. The attack against this ordinance is an attack against Gays by religious groups which seek to preserve their political intervention into civil matters and continue their attacks against Gays.

In particular we find that Rev. Riley's claim that the Catholic Church is not against Gay rights fraudulent and hypocritical. The Catholic Church's actions against Gay rights in the San Jose and Santa Clara County referenda (A & B) in 1980, and the numerous times Catholic Archbishops have spoken against Gay rights in New York, Philadelphia, Miami and elsewhere prove Rev. Riley's claim false.

Edward H. Sebesta for LGAES
Sunnyvale, CA

RELATIONSHIPS ARE NOT THE ISSUE

★ Dianne Feinstein has vetoed the "live-in lover bill," as it has become known in the press. The purpose of my letter is not to condone or condemn her action; I'm sure you will receive a sufficient number of letters regarding the veto. What I would like to discuss is the underlying assumption of the Britt bill: people involved in a relationship (whether married, straight or gay) are entitled to benefits which people not involved in a relationship are entitled to. I disagree with this assumption.

If I were a City employee I should be entitled to the same benefits as any other City employee. For example, all City employees should be able to sign up a certain number of "others" (lovers, spouses, children, friends, parents, whomever) or none should be able to. All Britt's bill would have done is to shift the class of those being discriminated against from single (in a legal sense) employees to those employees not involved in a relationship. I don't think that the criteria for benefits for City employees should include whether or not the employee has a lover (or spouse).

While the bill may have been a step in the right direction, let's not lose sight of the fact that it still would have treated those of us not involved in a relationship as second-class citizens. As such it was just another man's (in this case Harry Britt's) attempt to legislate his own particular prejudices.

Buck Rogers
San Francisco

CATHOLIC EVIL

★ It is my understanding that under the laws of this country, that if a church engages in politics that it loses its tax-exempt status. I was raised in the Roman Catholic Church where it was pointed out to me Sunday after Sunday, year after year, that the most important aspect for the life of the church is money.

We who advocate the rights of the individual: gay rights, women's rights, divorced people's rights should work to stop the tax-exempt status of the Catholic Church. There is nothing innately holy about the Catholic Church. It has a violent past concerned with the Crusades, Hitler, Mussolini, Franco, Salazar, Trujillo, the Inquisition, and countless other atrocities.

Every night gay people have to fear six Roman Catholic punks armed with knives, guns, and other deadly weapons attacking one gay man. This has been advocated by priests over the years. I have to say the gay people are much holier for this than any Roman Catholic. And they are more courageous than the scum who perform these unholy acts of violence.

It is time for us to stop the Church's unholy acts of political persecution, bigotry, lack of concern for the rights of others, over-emphasis on the material, and Fascism. It is time to tax the church because it is truly a political organization.

Ronald L. Troga
San Francisco

SLOPPY LEGISLATION

★ I feel compelled to write this letter in support of Mayor Feinstein's recent veto of the bill that would have provided medical benefits for the live-in lovers of City employees. The reasons the Mayor vetoed this bill were good ones: it was sloppily drafted and based on inadequate fact findings. I understand from a friend that attended the hearings on the bill that many questions were left unanswered. For example, through the payment of uniform premiums, will gays with their relatively younger lovers be subsidizing other City employees who have relatively older spouses? How do you distinguish lovers from housemates? Can you have more than one live-in lover at a time? These and many other questions need be answered before this well-intentioned bill becomes law.

The Mayor has indicated her support of the principle of benefits for live-in lovers. This is a significant victory for the gay community. The Mayor should be given a bill that is tightly drawn so that she can defend it and us. She has supported us in the past, and I expect she'll do so in the future despite the grief she receives regularly from some in our community.

There are those in San Francisco who would like to see a wedge driven between the Mayor and the gay community. Let's not let that happen as we would lose too valuable an ally. I have marched for various causes since the sixties, ranging from civil rights and peace to gay rights and the commemoration of the Milk/Moscone murders. If the Mayor fails to support a well-researched and tightly-drafted bill to provide medical benefits for live-in lovers, then perhaps a march might be appropriate. Now, however, is not the time to march against the Mayor.

Thomas Paul Rogers, Esq.
San Francisco

A MAYOR ERRS

Dear Mayor Feinstein,

I'm trembling with outrage. You have shown your true colors in vetoing the domestic partner benefits ordinance. I am confident that the legislation's supposed flaws in composition had nothing to do with your veto. Acting out of homophobia, and then finding reasons more politically acceptable to excuse your action, is not a new tactic.

It's clear that the opinions of heterosexist bigots such as Archbishop Quinn mean more to you than those of the voting, tax-paying Gay community.

The statistics indicate that "single" people are a majority in the City. Gay couples whose relationships are measured in terms of decades of sharing life and love are counted as "singles."

I hope this vicious strike against the community which gave you so much ill-deserved support comes back to haunt you where it counts.

J. Andrew Nicholas
San Francisco

THE VETO

★ I am writing in reference to the mayor's veto of the "live-in lover" plan. If you've noticed the local papers have headlined this as the "gay" plan, not as a plan for straights that choose other lifestyles that are nontraditional, as well as gays.

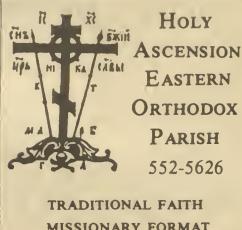
I applaud the action of the brothers in Houston, and I am hopeful that we as a powerful voting bloc remember next year the gift we wish to give to our mayor, some time off. How many times and in how many ways will we be sold out by her and the vote switchers, then woed and cuddled into forgetting at election time. It's about time we stood together and refused to settle for what seems the better of two bad choices when we vote. If we cannot support someone that will be fair with us, let us change the choices available.

R. A. Parker
San Francisco

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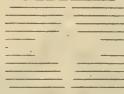
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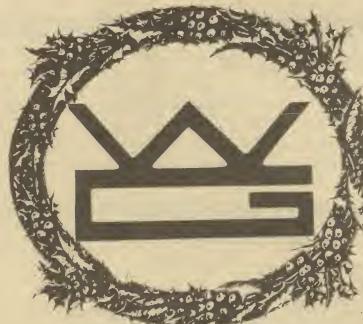
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LETTERS

A GAY BLACK RESPONDS

★ Re. Mr. Mulholland

I have found it necessary to rewrite a response to your Letter to the Editor three times, because of the anger that began to build within.

Your letter, I agree with in part is a just one, but you point your finger at BLACKS.

Not Black Punks, not Black Hoods, not at Black Troublemakers. There is a difference in all colors and races when it comes to the kind of people who offend us all, and it isn't fair to blame all because of just a few.

I can't point my finger at every person with white skin, no matter what their race, and accuse them of being a member of the KKK or of being a racist. I believe that your letter should have had a breakdown as to the type of Blacks that were causing trouble.

I work for a living and have since the age of 13, and I don't like being placed in the class of a Welfare Collector — I have enough problems being black and gay, when I go into a bar and wait five minutes while the bartender serves every white person who comes in after me and he knows it, or when I get into an elevator with a lone white female, who puts her back against the wall, clutches her handbag for dear life, and watches me out of the corner of her eye.

Your letter gives me the impression that you put all Blacks, gay or straight, into one class: Troublemaking, welfare getters, lazy. Not me, and not any of my personal friends.

Lonnie Lee
San Francisco

days he'll get around to reading *Straight to Hell* and learn about putting the SEX back into homoSEXual!!! (And if the "cesspool" of S.F. becomes "too, too much" he could always move to Pocatello, Idaho.)

Butch, Manly, Sweaty Hugs and Fucks (oooh! eeeek! my sensibilities!)

La Sir Captain Mary de Holy Douches
of Poo-Poo (W)Hole(Well)Nessies
San Francisco

ON A DEATH OF A GAY MAN



(Photo: Rank)

★ I was a student and friend of James Howell and I want to commend you on a beautiful and valid article about him, his living and his dying, and the way he touched people. He was different things to different people — a man and not a saint. His vision of life and of death was rare — which I feel was reflected sensitively in your article.

I also want to clarify some misleading information which may cause needless harm to your readers. Though Jim was not a man "living in the fast lane," and last year he had been in sparkling health and vitality, there was a transitional stage between health and AIDS. In late summer of 1981, Jim had three kinds of parasites simultaneously. In response, he was given highly potent medicinal drugs. It was only after this illness and treatment that I heard it mentioned that Jim was diagnosed immune deficient.

The KS Foundation
Harvey Milk Archives
San Francisco

POO ON THE ROMANTICS

★ WHOOPS AND HOWLS! And even a "Well, la-dee-DAH!" One of the "last romantics" in the area (who lives in tasteful, well-bred Stanford, no less, which is supposed to impress us, one supposes) writes that: "the letter from the 'Grand Wizard of Poo-Poo Holes' is the most offensive piece of garbage I've ever seen published" B.A.R. Goodness gracious, but "Last Romantic" is sure offended easily! And/or "Last Romantic" sure hasn't been around too many corners (of which he's — one assumes the respondent to be male — undoubtedly very, very proud). I do hope the poor dear never sees Divine's classic scene of eating DOG poo-poo (with relish) in *Pink Flamingos*. Heavens only knows WHAT sort of trade he might write to B.A.R. then!

As for "The Grand Wizard's" polemic about douching before going out to get banged — another intellectual perception strictly for the benefit of the aforementioned (and much, much delicate) "Last Romantic" — all I can say is, and in my most intellectual way, RIGHT ON, SISTER MARY BUTCH HUNKINESS OF CLEAN FUCKS!

We all know about these dewy-eyed romantic types — huuu, kids? They spend \$400 a week on long, too-boring-and-embarrassing-for-worts ads in "tasteful" rags like the *Advocate* seeking "long, meaningful walks on the beach, rainy nights in front of a fireplace with KABL softly in the background, reading Sara Teasdale/Edna St. Vincent Millay to one another" and on and on, never once mentioning Nastes (that is to say: S-E-X) and it gets so one doesn't know whether to laugh or cry. So one just does Barfles.

These well-bred romantics — appalled by the cesspool of San Francisco — nonetheless stroll about occasionally for cocktails in proper places and moon AT Mr. Maybes. Amusing, ain't it, how frequently they proceed to get bombed and end up at the bookstores, baths, sex clubs, and other dens of similar iniquity? And still looking for romance. And then, when they deign to offer one (often many, many more than just one) number a chance for romance, they start humming "What I Did For Love" while delicately, and graciously, upturning their tender double gloves for spearing. When Mr. Hot Number storms away, they refuse to realize that maybe he just didn't enjoy probing their shit-filled joy-gullies. Ah, well. Back to A.E. Housman. And ads in the *Advocate*.

Well, whoever "The Grand Wizard of Poo-Poo Holes" may be, sure hope he keeps it up! (Yuck, yuck.) And for the Stanford romantic, sure hope he has fun with his slide rules and maybe one of these

This essential information may provide a clue as to how he could deteriorate so quickly and, as well, prevent near-hysterical fear in healthy individuals. I hope so, anyway.

Sadly I bid Jim goodbye, but I will never forget nor cease to appreciate the knowledge on "who we are and how we function" that he imparted to me.

Richard Cohart
San Francisco

NERD NELDER

★ The Castro Times is the most reactionary voice in the Gay community. This is proved by its December issue's cover picture of Wendy Nelder, followed by a feature story called "Wendy Nelder: 2nd in Charge, 1st in Line."

The idea that this right-wing woman could quite possibly become the next mayor of this city should be frightening to all progressive Gays.

Not once does the article mention her recent vote against the domestic partners ordinance, nor does it give more than a cursory nod to Gay problems.

Although Supervisor Nelder is quoted as "...not being a silver spoon person," I would think it is more likely that she is a silver fork lift broad.

Tom Youngblood
San Francisco

GALA'S OK

★ As one who has given time and energy to the Gay Atheist League of America, an organization of which I am very proud, I was disappointed to read the letter by Robert D'Avanzo in your last issue. While Christian events and viewpoints are regularly reported in the media, atheists have enough difficulty getting any news coverage at all. Now you have printed in your paper a letter from a man in New York who, because of this thwarted attempts at gaining power in our organization, has decided to trash it by spreading lies in newspapers all across the country. I hope to inform your readers that, despite what Mr. D'Avanzo says, GALA is opposed to sexism, bigotry, and intolerance whether it is exhibited by the Christian church or by any human being.

In order to protect our Constitution and our system of government from the onslaught of religious fundamentalists, we need to help strengthen the organizations that are doing something about it. The Gay Atheist League is one of those organizations.

Douglas B. Randolph
San Francisco

LETTERS

COP KUDOS

* Congratulations to Officer Ronald Morrison, Badge #1088, for the time and trouble he took in writing to the gay community by way of this paper (*B.A.R.*, 9 Dec.). It was admirable of the *B.A.R.* to print his lengthy statement in full. What with having to contend with the machismo and downright homophobia of some of his police colleagues on the one side, and the complexities and capriciousness of the gay community on the other — it certainly took no little courage for Officer Morrison to even bother to write at all. But write he did, not only justifying himself, but covering very clearly his observations of public sex, police conduct and the inevitable consequences, particularly in relation to the Ringold Alley incident.

It doesn't take much cleverness or cunning for those of us in the gay community to know that (most of) those habitues who frequent Ringold Alley after 2 a.m. have the tact and discretion of alley cats in heat, and that something should be done to protect us from this perpetually troublesome cruising area!

Men like Officer Morrison could be a great asset in perpetuating understanding between the police force and the gay community (and the general public in between). His letter writing should be applauded, especially when most of our law-enforcing officers' literary outputs are confined to writing arrest citations!

Allan B. Cahir
San Francisco



A PD'ER VERSION

* Your printing Officer Ronald Morrison's version of the arrest of Les Boyette was very gratifying. All of us should hear or read both sides in these incidents. Too often the police are admonished for doing their work, by the gay community. Ringold Alley is a disgrace because of the gay community. I wonder how many of the trespassers would like the heterosexual community urinating in their yards or doorsteps? I for one congratulate the arresting officer for his courage in speaking out. It is time the gay community grows up and takes its sex indoors. We have many after-hours clubs for this purpose. Use the street to meet and then go home. Most of the attacks by police are brought on by ourselves. I am personally writing Officer Morrison congratulating him on his job and his letter. We need more officers like him and less of Les Boyette's kind.

Hank
San Francisco

ARREST PUBLIC SEXERS

Dear Officer Morrison:

I read your detailed letter to the *B.A.R.* and found it interesting.

I'm not going to pass judgment on you or Mr. Boyette, as I do not have access to the facts. As you said, it is up to the courts to settle this dispute.

However, you went into detail as to your style of police work, indicating that "during the past year and half I have . . . seen public sex acts being committed dozens of times," and that you admonish rather than book or cite violators of the public sex law.

If you and other police officers consistently enforced this law by arresting or citing observed offenders, there would be no problem.

Greg West
San Francisco

ON RINGOLD ARREST

* I was extremely gratified to read Officer Ronald Morrison's response in the latest issue of *B.A.R.* regarding the arrest of Les Boyette. I am glad that you printed his side of the story.

I have known Ron Morrison for almost two years now. I know him to be an honest, intelligent professional with the highest ethical standards. I am confident that his account of what happened is true, and that he will be cleared of any supposed misconduct.

The people of San Francisco are very fortunate to have people like Ron Morrison working as police officers. I wish there were more like him.

David C. Goldman
San Francisco

HARD ON PUBLIC SEX

* I am a 21-year old gay male who has only lived in San Francisco for two months. I would like to voice my opinion on the Ringold Alley incident and I hope my general point shall be understood by both gay and straight readers.

First off if you are expecting me to shame Officer Morrison and uphold Boyette, stop right here. I fear if I was even a gay policeman and would have had that type of situation I would have beat them both within inches of their lives. And I praise Officer Morrison's self-control for not doing so himself.

I was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, which is twice the size of San Francisco. Gays are tolerated in this city, and we are slowly being accepted by society. If the big cowboy and Boyette would have been doing such a thing there they would have many bruises and bumps to show for their meaningless orgasms.

New York is even worse, as the cops live by their nightsticks and firearms, and most hate gays so much they would just as soon beat the hell out of the ones who display their sexual acts for any passer-by to see.

I would like to ask a question of those gay men who "get into" having sex in public. Who do you think you are? Who the hell are you to make my life harder? I never see you getting sucked off, you may say. No, you are quite right, as I have never done such a thing in public. The way you make my life harder is one and only one way. It is called the "moral majority" which is my parents, your parents, my boss at work and your boss. When they hear of such goings on, they never forget them.

My final words will be somewhat cruel but will stress my opinion further. As for Officer Morrison, I am only sorry I wasn't a witness because I would have been a witness in any level of court for him. I wish him well and thank him for doing his duty. I hope this does not affect his career.

As for you, Boyette, you deserved what you got; you should have had worse done to you. As was said in a song, "Don't come cryin' to me."

Kent R. Tyler
San Francisco

COP'S ACCOUNT ON TARGET

* I have been following your account of the Ringold Alley article because I was the other man involved. I must admit that no one wants to go to jail for a few moments of pleasure in an alley. However, I want you and your readers to know that the police officer's account of the incident was correct. When the officer chased the other man down the street, yes, I did leave the scene . . . but everything up to that point was as the officer related it.

ED. NOTE: This letter arrived unsigned. Its contents suggests we bend the rules.

P. Lorch

HAIGHT HIGH

* Thank you for your excellent article on "Christmas in The Haight."

Many of us have worked many years to improve the quality of life in the Haight and to see the streets safe, boarded up storefronts return to viable businesses supplying jobs and independent employment for our friends.

We have come a long way in the development of a positive image for the Haight. No longer do people cringe with fear and distaste when you mention Haight/Ashbury.

I thank you for doing your part over the last few years to lift that discomforting feeling.

Ron Bansemier
Co-Owner, DeLuxe Bar
San Francisco

ON LESBIAN S & M

* A question for Pat Califia: What kind of person gets turned on by fantasies of violence against women? Isn't that the very essence of sexism?

Both a sadistic butch woman and a sadistic butch man are but two sides of the same warped coin: patriarchy.

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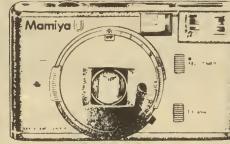
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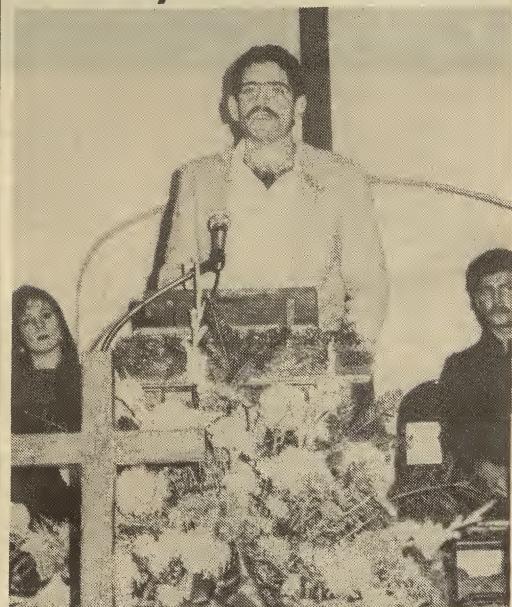
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Cowley Services at MCC



Rick Crane of the KS Foundation takes part in the Patrick Cowley Memorial Service at Eureka Street's MCC. (Photo: Rink)

by Konstantin Berlandt

Real revivalist funeral services were held Thursday afternoon, December 9, at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street in the Castro, for music creator Patrick Cowley, an Gay victim of KS, the deadly cancer that is one of several opportunistic diseases affecting AIDS patients. Cowley is credited with six hit records, creating the sound behind Sylvester's "Disco Heat" that won the 1978 Grammy Award for Disco Single of the Year and propelled its singer, Sylvester, from a well-known Gay performer into an international star.

Cowley also has two current albums out, featured in the window of Gramophone on Castro Street, "Mind Warp" and "Megatron Man."

Sylvester was one of a number of singers at the funeral, his close-cropped hair dyed a bright tomato red. He broke into tears, unable to finish the spiritual he was singing, but was helped along by another singer.

Popular local DJ Tim Rivers entuned a simple version of "His Eye Is On The Sparrow." There were also some upbeat rhythmic gospel performances.

Also speaking at the funeral, KS Foundation Program Director Rick Crane, who spoke of a Patrick Cowley Memorial Fund (send checks made out to the KS Foundation at 470 Castro Street #207, Box 3360, San Francisco, CA 94114; 415/864-4376) and also urged mourners to attend that evening's 5 p.m. City Hall rally to protest the Mayor's veto of spousal rights that morning.

MCC Reverend Michael England gave the opening blessing. The church was packed, literally, to the rafters, including a row of Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in the fourth or fifth pew.

Arizona Court Rejects NGRA Arguments

The Arizona Court of Appeals has refused to allow National Gay Rights Advocates to file an *amicus curiae* brief in support of a police officer who was fired because he is Gay. The filing, and acceptance, of an *amicus curiae* ("friend of the court") brief is a routine procedure which is rarely opposed.

The case revolves around Steve Horn, who was fired from the Mesa, Arizona, police force after he came out last Fall. Leonard Graff, NGRA Legal Director, termed the reaction of the court homophobic. "There are some very compelling constitutional arguments that we made in advocating Mr. Horn's reinstatement. Apparently the court wasn't prepared to hear them from a Gay law firm."

Feeling that their case was threatened, the city attorney had urged the court to reject NGRA's brief. In defending its position, the city argued that being Gay is "not compatible with holding the high office of a policeman," and "to retain

Horn would have an adverse impact on the morale of the police department."

Jean O'Leary, Executive Director of NGRA, said, "We will not be deterred by this action. NGRA is committed to fighting employment discrimination whenever it occurs." O'Leary went on to explain that cases of this nature are part of NGRA's national litigation project. She said, "One of our top priorities is to insure job security for Lesbians and Gay men throughout the country."



OC Works with Seniors



(Photo: Cathy Cade)

Senior Support. Stafford Buckley and Natalie Zarchin (center) are seen with some of the more than 40 seniors who participated in a social program coordinated by the pair. Held on November 13 at S.F. Home Health, the luncheon was the first in a series of social events sponsored by Operation Concern for Gay and Lesbian seniors. A second event is an informal get-together for Gays 60 and older on Saturday, December 18, at 1:30 p.m. Held at Operation Concern, 2483 Clay Street (at Fillmore), it will feature several film clips, including a segment of **Word is Out**, which centers on seniors.

Operation Concern also welcomes program volunteers of all ages, who will receive training in techniques for doing friendly visiting and working with seniors. An informal rap group is another group activity, as well as writers groups. The program reaches shut-ins and offers aid to people who need assistance in getting out.

If you would like to participate in the programs or volunteer your services as an aide, call Stafford or Natalie at 563-0202.

Portland Gay Counseling Center Receives Grant

Activists organize Gay PAC

Jerry Weller, Executive Director of Portland, Oregon's Town Council Foundation (also known as Phoenix Rising) announced on December 7 that the counseling programs of Phoenix Rising received a \$7,500 grant from Cascade Health Care, Inc. Cascade Health Care provided health programs in Portland until two years ago when it closed for financial reasons. Over the past two years the organization's board developed a plan to distribute the remained of Cascade's resources. Phoenix Rising is the only Lesbian / Gay organization of the twelve foundations that received funds.

The funds from Cascade Health Care will be used to continue Phoenix Rising's one-to-one counseling programs as well as the specialized group counseling programs. "Like so many social service organizations Phoenix Rising has had a difficult time financially over the past two years," stated Weller, "This grant will enable us to continue serving Portland's Lesbian and Gay male community and hopefully with the continued support of the Gay community we will be able to raise the additional funds we need."

Phoenix Rising also offers a public education program aimed at educating non-Gays about the needs and issues of the Lesbian and Gay community. A great emphasis is placed on educating civic and professional organizations. Over forty Lesbians and Gay men have been trained as speakers for the program.

Town Council Foundation (Phoenix Rising) is a non-profit, tax exempt organization with all donations being tax deductible.

OREGON'S PAC

Meanwhile, Board members of the Right to Privacy, PAC, Oregon's largest Gay political action committee, today announced their intention to form the Right To Privacy Lobby. This new organization will spearhead the drive for legislative issues in the upcoming 1983 Oregon legislative session.

"With the political clout and sophistication we've gained by the enormous success of our campaign efforts (the PAC raised over \$21,000 during the campaign season) we would be doing an injustice to the Lesbian and Gay community were we not to form a progressive, high-powered lobby," stated Eugene Lesbian attorney Dana Weinstein. "Our board members have exceptional expertise and experience and we have promises of stronger support from legislators than in any other Oregon legislative session," she continued.

Jerry Weller, who is also Co-Chair of the Washington, D.C. based Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL), stated "1983 marks ten years of introducing Gay civil rights legislation in Oregon. In that time we've come within one and two votes of passing a bill in the House. This year considering the make-up of both the House and Senate and our contacts and agreements with other progressive lobbies we can get a bill through."

The board is considering many Gay issues other than just a full civil rights bill including prison reform and professional licensing procedures. Other board members include: Terry Bean, also a board member of Gay Rights National Lobby, Keeston Lowery, and John Baker.

Those interested in having input on legislative issues may call Dana Weinstein in Eugene, Oregon at (503) 687-2378.

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Christmas in the Castro

by Wayne April

My assignment was to write an article about Christmas in the Castro. This was in conjunction with articles also being assigned for the Haight and Polk Street areas. The Haight Street article appeared in last week's paper and I think Mr. Hippel did an original and witty piece. He highlighted some interesting places to shop and pointed out a few of the more worthwhile things to look at or go to.

He set a precedent for the other pieces, I thought, but one which I found hard to follow. Not because I couldn't put out a Castro version of the same thing, but because I didn't feel like it.



Spectacle and sales people in Upper Market's "Ho, Ho, Ho" Christmas shop (Photo: Rink)

In my former job on two straight, small-town weekly newspapers, I did my share of puff pieces or happy news or whatever you want to call newspaper articles that tout the positive, ignore what's wrong, and, not infrequently, toady to the advertisers. Such stories aren't inherently bad, if they're used moderately and judiciously, but if you have to do too many of them they're like candy: if you eat too much, you never want to see the stuff again.

Besides, writing articles that actually name names usually leads to trouble with the very people you thought you were

trying to help. Inevitably, you leave somebody out who thought they should have been in; someone who took a \$20 ad out in your paper in 1968 and now vows never to advertise in your rag again. One caustic phone call from a piqued shopkeeper can ruin your whole day.

No, I wasn't going to go that route. But which route? While thrashing around looking for an angle, I thought it might not hurt to call up some of the Castro and Upper Market businesses to find out how business was this holy and most spendthrift of seasons. A consensus,

however, I could not get. Like the blind men describing the elephant, each merchant had a different answer for how this recession-tainted Christmas was affecting them.

Headlines owner Andy Cramer said his business was "phenomenal." "I've never seen such a strong Christmas in all the years (10) we've been open," said Cramer. He attributes his success to the "hundreds of new items" in stock, and all at "low and reasonable prices."

My visit to his store later seemed to confirm what he had said — the place was



Castro Station's 7 a.m. bartender Larry welcomes early shoppers under holiday stars. (Photo: Rink)

mobbed. Of course, when you don't have much floor space to begin with it doesn't take many people to give a "mobbed" look, but the shoppers that were there all seemed to be buying. The same was true of some of the other Headlines-type stores along the street. The small shops with a million little items for sale at mostly low prices were definitely attracting bigger crowds than some of the more specialized places.

But then there's always the exception to the rule you've just postulated. Mum's, on Market, the dessert and sweets specialty shop, is in its third season and busier than ever, according to Rusty Nichols. A large part of his business is "doing parties," and some of the downtown companies have him busy catering their holiday office bashes. I guess, despite the economy, some places would never lower themselves to the old you-bring-the-eggnog-I'll bring-the-brownies potluck.

Some stores have less to crow about. Leather Forever owner Gordon Heasley says his business is "not up to last year." But his four-year-old Castro store is doing better than his 10-year-old Polk

when I'm in the store.)

In the course of my rambles around the area I stopped in at both the new mini-malls — the one on Castro and the one on Market. They have a lot in common: hi-tech design and lots of unrented floor space. The Market mall is larger and has more stores to visit. It's also fun to explore, because it's multi-storyed. I'm sure these will be busy places when the economy improves and they fill up with tenants.

Well, that takes care of business. No doubt this Christmas season will make or break a number of shops, and it's always sad to see a storefront go empty, but what about Christmas spirit? In the end, that's what counts.

In my quest for the Castro Christmas spirit, I called Don Mackey at Eureka Federal Savings. He's the current president of the Eureka Valley Merchants' Association, the outfit that puts up the tree at the Hibernia Bank each year. I hadn't seen the tree yet, so I asked him about it and about what else the association was doing for the holidays.

It turned out that at the very time I was talking to him



The festive reindeer in the window of "100% Solution" on Market were designed and built by Alan Greenspan, who built BEACH BLANKET BABYLON'S hats. Each reindeer has been given a Gay personality that suits his name — from Prancer and Vixen on down.

Street store. "There's not as much foot traffic on Polk," said Heasley, "and better than half my business there is now straight." He attributes his change in clientele at Polk to the "continuing migration" of gay business to the Castro.

The Obelisk, one of the tonier shops in the Castro area, is "not hurting," but "could be better," according to Ron Farve, one of the owners. "People seem to be shopping later this year," he said. My visit there later showed it not wanting for walk-in traffic, but the people at the purchase and gift-wrapping counter were not overworked.

My visit to Statements, another high-priced store, was similar. Some lookers, but no evidence of buying. (One of these days I'm going to actually see someone buying something there. I'm sure it happens, but it never does

they were setting up the tree. He said they always set the tree up about two weeks before Christmas (unlike those tacky, commercially-oriented people at Neiman-Marcus), so it wasn't any later than usual. That's about all the Association is doing, however. "The Association ran out of steam early in the year, and we've been trying to resurrect it," said Mackey. He said a lot was talked about, but it all started too late and nothing happened.

The Association's tree was lit Saturday evening, Dec. 11, with the help of a contingent from the Gay Men's Chorus, and the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band. Christmas spirit, or something, caused a large crowd to gather round and join in the festivities. There was sporadic singing amidst the non-Chorus and some hugging and groping. It

(Continued on next page)

Christmas

(Continued from previous page)

was obvious that the crowd wanted an excuse, any excuse, for some good old-fashioned holiday celebrating. But the Chorus broke up too soon, and despite an attempt at a spontaneous ren-



dition of "White Christmas," the spirit evaporated and the disappointed carolers dispersed.



Gay Men's Chorus sings at the lighting of the Castro Christmas tree on Hibernia Beach. (Photo: Rink)

Other than the tree (and a smaller one outside the Jaguar), outside decorations are sparse this year. There are some pretty

lights above Cliff's Variety and Badlands, but nothing else that's memorable. Some store windows have been decorated in a Christmas theme, but none worth a special trip to see. Although, the mechanical penguin scene at Lenny's Linen Closet on 18th Street is cute.

As far as inside decorations go, I didn't inspect every building in the Castro/Upper Market area, but the ceiling in the Castro Station bar is very seasonal. Give those gay boys a little cardboard, tin foil and spray paint and they can make anything!

Did I find the Castro Christmas spirit? No. But it might have been in the *Midnight Sun*. I didn't look in there. ■

Wayne April

Citizen Advisory Aid Sought by Department of Public Health

The Community Health Services Division of the Health Department is seeking applicants for the Community Advisory Board from residents of San Francisco. There are currently four vacancies. The Board provides input to the Division on matters of family health, chronic and communicable diseases, environmental health, and health assessment and referral programs. Persons representing the city's ethnic and disabled populations, the various districts and professional groups are urged to apply.

Applications are available by calling the Department of Public Health, Judith Hager, 558-2761.

The Board is a 23-member board. Issues such as program priorities, quality assurance, advocacy, needs assessment, and identification of high health risk groups are addressed by the Board. Persons interested in serving will be expected to attend one 2½ hour meeting a month, to become familiar with the programs of the Division, and possibly to serve on a Board Committee. Deadline for applications is December 20.

Cable Car Media Entries Sought

The Board of Directors of the 1983 Cable Car Awards & Show is pleased to announce the opening of nominations in the areas of: 1. Photojournalism; 2. Posters; 3. Advertising; 4. Publications.

All entries in these categories are to be submitted to 1406 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94110 before December 31.

The 1983 Cable Car Awards & Show is scheduled for February 6 at the Japan Center (Kabuki) Theatre. Tickets for tables of 12 at \$15 and \$20 each will be on sale from December 20 through January 5. Reservations for these tables can be made by calling 826-2999 or by writing P.O. Box 11283, San Francisco, CA 94101. Individual tickets will be available after January 5 at both Headlines locations on Polk and Castro Streets.

Three Sections

Gay Lit Classes in Castro

City College of San Francisco will offer three sections of Gay and Lesbian Literature through its Evening Division during the Spring Semester. Peg Cruikshank will teach a survey of Gay and Lesbian Literature (English 55A) on Tuesday Evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 at the Castro/Valencia Center (Everett Middle School, Church Street between 16th and 17th Streets). The survey covers the writings of Sappho, Whitman, Jane Rule, Audre Lord, Felice Picano, Richard Hall, and others. Jack Collins will teach a topics course of Gay and Lesbian Fiction in the USA 1948-1964 (English 55B). There will be two sections of English 55B: on the CCSF Campus (Ocean at Phelan) on Tuesday Evenings from 7 to 10 in Arts 310; and at the Castro/Valencia Center on Monday Evenings from 6:30 to 9:30. The topics course covers novels and

stories by Gore Vidal, Truman Capote, Carson McCullers, Tennessee Williams, John Rechy, Christopher Isherwood, and others.

Each section carries three (3) units of semester college credit, transferable to UC-Berkeley and SF State, and partially satisfies the CCSF Humanities requirement. Tuition is free to California residents. New students must apply for admission to the Evening Division program by Wednesday December 29. Applications are available, with schedules of other Spring Semester courses, at the SF Public Library (including Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk and Noe Valley branches) and at CCSF (Statler Wing on Campus; Downtown Center at 4th and Mission). For further registration information, call 239-3581; for further course information call 239-3384. ■

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The Aides in City Hall

PETER NARDOZA

Part Six of a Six-Part Series

by Scott Treimel

If you go to meet Peter Nardoza you will probably have to wait a few minutes. While you wait he will probably walk past — or rather scurry past, for that is how he walks, with short steps and his chin tucked into his neck — and he will say, "I'm sorry, I'll be with you in a minute; this place is a madhouse." The place will be Room 205 City Hall, and while you wait you will muse on the sample you have just heard of Peter Nardoza's voice. It is gentle and scratchy, like Marlon Brando's God-father, but unavoidably, infallibly sexier. You will muse on Peter Nardoza's voice or on how appropriately situated his office is, right across from the mayor's suite. The mayor is Peter Nardoza's boss, and for obliging her bossing he gets \$40,000 a year and an office that is a madhouse. Peter Nardoza loves his job.

Peter Nardoza loves his job — loves his life, too, all 34 years of it. He grew up in Manhattan, in an apartment on East 20th Street, with a mother who is a secretary, a father who manages a warehouse, and at the head of a brood of five. He denies that being the eldest child influenced his development, but 12 years of parochial school, he admits, had an effect — positive or negative he declines to say. When he completed high school, he quit attending church, and when he completed his bachelor's degree he quit living at home. He commenced teaching 7th graders at St. Joseph's Academy, studying for his master's degree, entertaining in his Greenwich Village apartment on Prince Street, and investigating disco abandonment. Of this his thesis, an analysis of the '72 presidential television campaign, remains an ineradicable memory: "the sweat and the toil and the years it took to do," is what he remembers.

In 1974 Nardoza moved, with a lover, to San Francisco, just to have a look around and reunite with his dear New York friends who had fled the Apple earlier. "Deep down I knew I wouldn't stay; my intention was to come for a couple months." The story is familiar: the months stretched on, the intention waned, Nardoza began to hunt for work. He decided volunteer campaign work would provide the best contacts, so he latched onto Dianne Feinstein's '75 mayoral campaign and was later asked, once she lost, to serve as a supervisor's aide. He has remained with her since.

eight years in the city, and is now an administrative aide on her senior staff, which means he reports on things, or, as he says, he "monitors" them. He monitors the Board of Supervisors, for example, keeping the mayor abreast of its approaching agenda and supplying her with Supervisors' voting records. He also monitors budgets — the airport's, the port's, the Board of Supervisors', the mayoral office's, the Chief Administrator's Office's — to avert overspending. His duties are more specific than a supervisor's aide because the mayor's staff, being larger, is assigned narrower responsibilities. Occasionally an issue arises that no one is designated to handle, and Nardoza will be instructed to take charge. The Lombard Street lot that the school board owns, for example, has become Nardoza's responsibility. He mediates discussions between the school board who want to build a high revenue generating hotel and the neighborhood citizens who want a parking lot erected.

Nardoza and lots have a certain history that B.A.R. readers may recall. At three o'clock one Friday morning in July, while crossing the Collingwood Park lot and returning to the Noe Valley duplex he owns, Nardoza was stopped by police and hauled into the Mission Police Station on charges of public drunkenness. Nardoza insists he was sober, the police contend he was drunk, and for two months the incident has been under investigation by the Internal Affairs Bureau. The case, existing as it does

right beneath the mayor's nose, exemplifies how Gay aides in City Hall are Gay ambassadors. "I don't think the mayor doubted, prior to my incident, that there were times the police acted unprofessionally, pulled people in with no reason. The situation, however, is now brought closer to home, and I think Dianne has found it instructive because I've kept her up to date on the investigative process." The incident reversed Nardoza's initial antipathy to a civilian review board — "Investigations take too long, even my case, which has been processed more quickly than most. I've spok-



Mayoral aide Peter Nardoza (Photo: Rink)

fice. Say, hypothetically, I were to leave the mayor's office. I assume she would seek my advice on a replacement. My advice would be she does not need a Gay person to

the Gay health epidemic is "scary, really scary," is behind the mayor's bid for gun control, would like to see a greater Gay contribution to social services, and believes a person has a right to be pious and that the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence "can be perceived as making a mockery of that."

In the end, Peter Nardoza can only strike you as a reasonable fellow on an even keel with the world. He does not rage for change but he is not recalcitrant to it. He is, quite simply, "generally pleased with my life." He is pleased with his quiet evenings watching television or reading about the English monarchy, going to baseball games or soft rock concerts, and he is even more than pleased — animated, actually — by the wonders of Linda Ronstadt. "I like who I am. I have a great time. I feel very fortunate to be a Gay person living in San Francisco, to have the job I have, the friends I have, the boyfriend I have."

When he says this, you say, "Thanks very much." He will then spring from his chair, shake your hand, and scurry off. "I've got to be on the ball," he will say: "I've got a lot to do." This said, he will tuck his chin into his neck and, taking short steps, will resume the affairs he conducts in a madhouse.

CITY HALL PROFILES

en to the mayor about it, and I'll speak to her again: the process needs to be changed."

The case illustrates what it means to have Gay aides in City Hall: they are no arch advocates — the nature of the jobs defy such a role — but by their mere presence they exert a point of view. Nardoza concurs: "I don't see my primary responsibility as being the mayor's Gay aide, but the input, the advice, and the sounding board I play as a Gay person is vital to this of-

handle my specific responsibilities, but she must have a Gay person on her senior staff."

Nardoza characterizes his politics as "moderate to just left-of-moderate." He has no political ambition, would "love" to own his own business someday, and is a member of the Alcie B. Toklas Democratic Club, or at least will be as soon as he reactivates his lapsed membership. He supports Gay legislation on a national level, promotes Jerry Brown for senator, thinks Pete Wilson "keeps flip flopping" and "doesn't know where he's coming from," and commends San Francisco's Gay community for realizing its diversity. He believes



Nardoza's strength lies in his loyalty to Dianne Feinstein and her loyalty to him when things get rough. (Photo: Rink)

Celebrity Santas to Benefit Parade

Lea Delaria, Randy Shilts, Mary Dunlap and Carol Roberts are among the many well-known Lesbians and Gay men who have agreed to appear as Santa Claus to benefit the 1983 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade.

Installed in a throne at the corner of Castro and 18th, Santa will be available to entertain requests and to "find out who's naughty and nice" ... and act accordingly.

Pictures taken while on Santa's lap (or while being spanked) will be sold for \$2.00 and the proceeds will be used to benefit the Parade Committee.

Sr. Boom Boom has even agreed to participate, al-

though he will appear as an "Anti-Santa" celebrating the pagan holidays.

Santa's Stop will be set up at Castro and 18th on Friday, December 17th from 4:40-7:30 PM and on Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th from 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM. Info: Leslie Manning 626-0959.

PARADE MEDICS MEET

Organizational meeting for the Medical subcommittee of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee will be held on Wednesday, December 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Commission Room on the third floor of the Main Public Library in Civic Center. Election of subcommittee co-chairs for 1983 is scheduled.

GUEST COLUMN

Gays and the Church

Part Two of Two Parts

by Kevin Starr

The Bay Area Reporter asked S.F. Examiner columnist Kevin Starr for reprint permission on his two-part series on the local Catholic Church's task force study on homosexuality. He enthusiastically agreed.

"Homosexuality and Social Justice," the report recently issued by the Task Force on Gay/Lesbian Issues of the Commission on Social Justice of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, makes a total of 54 specific recommendations.

These run the gamut from recommendations that have the instant and total assent of the Roman Catholic community — that violence against Gays and Lesbians be explicitly opposed by the church, for instance — to more controversial proposals regarding the explicit encouragement of Gays and Lesbians to enter the Roman Catholic clergy and once there, to receive the assistance of special support structures.

A superbly organized document, the task force report makes its recommendations chapter by chapter, after setting forth a specific problem area, the family as an example, suggesting the proper scriptural and/or theological response, then ending each chapter with specific proposals.

This counterpoint of problem, religious response, and practical recommendation gives to the report an encompassing solidity that is often lacking in similar manifesto-like documents. Because of its sophistication, moreover, the task force report is destined, so I believe, to have a wide and far-reaching effect as theologians search out the evolving premises and pastoral practice of the Church's relationship to Gays and Lesbians.

Space obviously does not permit me to redact all 54 proposals, but I would like to relate some of those which I found most interesting. I find it fascinating, for instance, that the document begins with and makes its first declarations on the problem of violence.

The Gay community, in San Francisco and elsewhere, views this as perhaps the leading problem it faces in America today. Specifically, the task force fears that much of this violence against Gays is reinforced by religious attitudes. The task force therefore recommends that the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco examine itself thoroughly as to how its agencies "might be conduits of oppression to Lesbian women and Gay men through their own attitudes and practices in parishes, schools, diocesan offices, chanceries, seminaries, religious communities, and in the Catholic media."

Catholic agencies, the task force recommends, should develop internal programs to combat homophobia and sexism and to work with the criminal justice system to eliminate anti-Gay/Lesbian violence. The task force recommends, furthermore, that the archdiocese eliminate all reference to marital status and sexual preference from applications for employment in the archdiocese.

Tackling a very ticklish problem, the task force re-

commends that the problem of violence against Gays be especially combatted in the Latino community. The task force calls for an educational program regarding sexuality and homosexuality to be organized in Hispanic parishes. The task force is especially concerned that the notion that Gayness and Lesbianism hurt the family (and the family is revered in Hispanic culture) be eliminated from all official Catholic teaching.

Rejecting the exclusively juridical approach of the past, the task force recommends that future church utterances on the Gay/Lesbian issue be characterized by a higher level of theological sophistication than has previously been the case. In recommendation No. 10, that affects all Catholics of all sexual persuasions, the task force asks that "the church at all levels work together toward developing a viable sexual theology and pastoral practice, one that is properly complicated and nuanced as to appropriately deal with the complex and multidimensional levels of human and sexual life, and that human experience be considered seriously as a theological source."

It is in this recommendation that I find the truly revolutionary premise or pivot in this document. An increasingly large number of Roman Catholic moral theologians and active pastors in the United States today are growing tired of sustaining and interpreting what they consider a woefully inadequate theology of human sexuality.

This moral theology, they believe, has reached a point of irrelevance which brings it under question, not from the point of view of practicality — for the truth is often not practical — but because it stands in such a degree of defiance to ordinary, well-intended human practice that it brings upon itself a suggestion of heresy. No theology, these theologians and pastors believe, can claim validity when it exists as a defiant affront to the life of charity as pursued by ordinary believers.

Thus, to cite one example, nearly 90 percent of all Roman Catholics in America believe in and practice birth control. Official church teaching, meanwhile, continues to consider birth control a grave moral evil. The result: the priesthood loses its moral authority, and the laity drifts away from the church.

In calling for a major re-thinking of the theology of human sexuality, the task force of the Archdiocese of San Francisco has done a service to more than just the Gay/Lesbian community. Whether or not the official church will have the institutional momentum, not to mention the courage, to loosen its grip on the sexual lives of its adherents and to face the truths of human sexuality is of course another matter.

Sexuality and the related problem of overpopulation, in any event, should dominate the theological discourse of the immediate future.

GUEST COLUMN

'Christian' Propaganda: Literature of Hate

by Darryl Astin

As all of us who frequent the Castro know, we are occasionally subject to infiltration of the Moral Majority and Company. I, like many others, have received various pamphlets and literature deeming homosexuality as a perversion.

Until now, all I have received have been decent and even kind. Until now.

On the weekend of Aug. 20/21 I was given a small book from a friend who had gotten it from two customers at the restaurant where he worked. They cowardly left it on the table with the tip enclosed. This book, distributed by an unknown Christian group, insulted me greatly. I was shocked to find it unlike any other anti-Gay literature I have read.

The booklet, affectionately titled "The Gay Blade," insults before you even open it up, with an illustration on the front cover of a limp wrists male with his hand on his hip, wearing bell bottom pants, with a slight bend in the leg. The hair on this guy is apparently of a bouffant-female style.

The entire book is full of cartooned scenes depicting various homo atrocities. For instance, page one and two are devoted to the awful idea of two men marrying one another, complete with the wedding scene and a crowd of pathetic looking super-nellies looking on. On it goes speaking of Gays "coming out of Satan's shadowy world" and

"their tragic lives prove that there isn't anything gay about being gay." Seems I'm happy.

There is one revolting picture showing two Gay men together with a woman and child in the background. The woman is hovering over the child as if to protect it while exclaiming "GULP!" Such revealing facts as "their identity is hidden," "some are reported to be in high government positions," "homosexuality is a disease say experts, or maybe family problems," and "Homosexuality is like a demonic power that controls them (gays)". Are you ready for this? I still cannot believe it even as I sit here looking at it now.

We now go on to actual passages from the Bible and interpretations of those passages. All Gay views are referred to in the fashion of "gay militants" say...

In this trash, we are implied to molest small boys/girls and also to go out and "recruit" more to our numbers. We "expose" those around us to our "sin" and "decadence," "feel sorry for ourselves" and "beg for compassion" to "ease our extreme guilt." That last line is accompanied by a picture of a Gay telling a straight man "You must understand that I'm sick and YOU should have COMPASSION on me!" with the straight, complete with a sick look on his face, exclaiming, "I think I'd better go!"

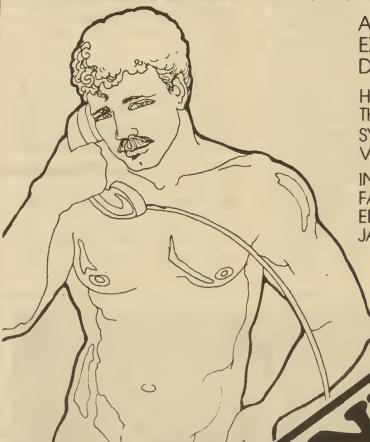
I mean, is this the eighties or what? The whole thing is Moral Majority shit and it is

cruel and mean. I do not know if any one else has received this particular booklet, but if you do, use it for toilet paper and send it back from whence it came.

I, for one, am quickly tiring of the constant chipping away at the Gay lifestyle by those who have ordained themselves as guardians of society. I laughed and turned the other cheek up to now, but no more of that since I received the last straw. I have already written a letter to the PTL after viewing an anti-Gay show televised Aug. 22, which I watched out of curiosity. It, too, was disgusting. Now, I have committed myself to take some sort of action when I feel wronged or smeared, and you out there should do the same. Let's let these scums of moral integrity know we are here and we are fed up. Write, call, do something.



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Houston Gays Nix Dianne

(Continued from Page 1)

Over the past 9 months Gay PAC banquets and receptions have been held in a number of cities: Dallas, Philadelphia, Boston, New York City. The guest speakers have been an array of Human Rights champions: US Senator Alan Cranston, Joel Wachs (president of the Los Angeles City Council), Massachusetts US Senator Paul Tsongas, and former Vice President Walter Mondale at the gala Waldorf Astoria in NYC.

These events were put together by local committees and HRCF field representative Jim Foster. Many of them were first of their kinds in the cities selected, and all regarded as major successes. The Houston reception was to be the final and capping event. Foster, a long-time political ally of Dianne Feinstein went to considerable lengths and expended much political capital to get Feinstein to fly to Houston. An acceptable date was found which coincided with the Houston meeting of the National Committee of Mayors. Friday, December 10. It was a planning session, and Feinstein was a participant.

Meanwhile, in San Francisco, a time bomb was ticking away: Supervisor Harry Britt's spousal rights bill — which had passed the Board of Supervisors twice by an 8 to 3 vote. It came to pass that the deadline for Mayor Feinstein to respond to the measure was Friday, December 10.

On Monday, Catholic archbishop, John R. Quinn, leaked a stinging rebuke to the Mayor to the major press. (Its contents were printed in last week's *Bay Area Reporter*). The mayor called a 10 AM press conference for Thursday December 9. At 12:30 PM she boarded her plane to Houston arriving at 6 PM CST. At 7 PM Houston time Foster called her hotel and informed press aide Jim Eastham that the Human Rights Campaign Fund headquarters had instructed him to cancel the invitation for the next evening's reception. Eastham said that the mayor's party had discussed such a possibility on their flight down and understood his predicament.

Local organizers also participated in the decision. However, not all Houston has agreed with it.

Benefit coordinator, Lee Harrington agreed; he said the invitation was withdrawn so "as not to align ourselves with her veto in San Francisco."

In Washington DC spokespeople for the HRCF issued a press release that said HRCF was not about to risk its credibility after so many months of work around the nation on the unfriendly move of a guest speaker. Also they did not want their event to be construed as an endorsement of Feinstein's veto.

Other Houston activists were not so easily convinced to dump their choice. Some felt — including the other benefit coordinator, Fred Abrams — that the visiting mayor should be given an opportunity to air her views. Others felt it was a breach of manner. This view was articulated by Craig Rowland, a Houston scientific publications editor and vice president of the local KS Committee. Rowland, also a former editor of a Houston Gay newspaper said, "I think Dianne Feinstein should have been given an opportunity to explain her position to Houston. She should not have been dis-invited." Rowland said many of the people he knew felt this way and consequently refused to turn up at the \$50 a head benefit.

The event was slated from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the brown brick mansion of Doctors Richard and Robert O'Brien in one of the city's older and most exclusive neighborhoods.

From the moment Jim Foster checked into his Montrose motel room flying in from Galveston, Texas, he was besieged by telephone calls, threats, demands, confusion. By dusk local organizers were growing nervous. They too had been barraged by concerned people pro and con. A telegram had arrived from San Francisco signed by Gays and Lesbians from all shades of the political spectrum demanding Dianne be dumped. The names included Gwenn Craig, Gerry Parker, Wayne Friday, Del Martin, Phyllis Lyon, Del Dawson, Pat Norman, Dennis Collins.

By early evening a consensus had been reached to disinvite the mayor, and to get the official bodies to make the appropriate statements to the media.

The *Montrose Voice* (Houston's Gay newspaper)

was literally holding the presses for a Friday AM publication. They needed evidence of an official decision — all these frantic activities were funneled through Foster's motel room phone.

The *Montrose Voice* had opted for a major front-page story on the Feinstein decision. Commented one Houston press wather, "one

people took the trouble to send us a telegram. I'd like to know what any of them did to get the bill passed." Others questioned whether it was a sound bill to begin with.

Friday AM's *Houston Record* carried the AP wire story on the Feinstein's veto — in terms favorable to her. Her opinion on Harry Britt's spousal rights bill was quoted. "This bill is in-

was Mayor Kathy Whitmire. Organizers feared that undue and unfavorable publicity would keep Whitmire from showing up. It was the fear of massive publicity that would be on the heels of a Feinstein guest honor slot that also aided the organizers to jettison the San Francisco mayor. Houston is known as a conservative city, and the glare of



The City Hall steps' Thursday night protesters.

of the first stories of any magnitude in the newspaper's history." The story carried a lengthy interview with B.A.R. political reporter Wayne Friday. Friday told *Montrose Voice* reporter Johannes Stahl that the San Francisco reaction had been "dreadful" and that he had talked with gay leaders in San Francisco "who had been her long-time supporters and in the light of her actions said they would be looking for another candidate to support for mayor in city-county elections next year."

As the hour of the benefit drew near, and the word of Feinstein's nixing got around, Houston's gay community, a third response began to surface.

This opinion resented the outside interference in local affairs. Much of the annoyance was reserved for San Francisco gays who were seen as seeking to punish Feinstein at the Houstonian's expense. In particular those who chose to phone and telegraph Houston. Said one well-known Texas Gay political activist over lunch at Baja's on Lovett, "All those

equitable, and it is therefore unacceptable to me." Still other Texans wondered why Supervisor Britt wasn't at home lobbying his coalitions for his bill or if, for that matter, the whole affair wasn't a plot to set up the mayor and hurt her.

FOSTER SEEKS SUBSTITUTES

The next order of business was to find a suitable substitute for Mayor Feinstein. A number of Houston and Texas politicians were listed on the honorary committee and were expected. Ginny Apuzzo, new executive director of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) agreed to fly in and make an appearance. At the eleventh hour Lia Belli, president of the California Democratic Council, a national spokeswoman on government funding for AIDS volunteered to fly in, substitute for Dianne, and save Jim Foster's day. She taxied in from Houston's International airport and arrived at the O'Brien mansion at 7:45 PM.

By this time a crowd of 150 had satisfied the organizer's worst fears and a number of local politicians turned up. Among them were Debra Danbury, state representative from the predominantly Gay Montrose district. Jim Greenwood, conservative city councilman; Lance Lalor, City of Houston Controller.

The guest who pleased the Houstonian Gays the most

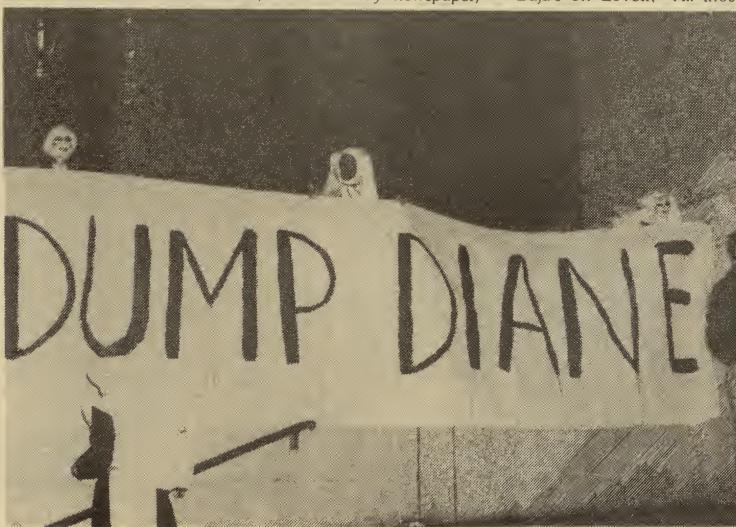
TV cameras and microphones and sensation-seeking reporters would — concluded the organizers — have scared off more guests that they cared to speculate on.

For Houston Gay activists the event proved another boon. Said co-coordinator Harrington to those assembled in the ballroom. "This is the first time I ever saw such a broad based turnout of people to support any form of political activity before."

THE CAMPAIGN FUND

Foster who, according to those involved in the Houston benefit, saved the day, told the B.A.R. that the Houston fundraiser was the last one for a while. He had but five more days to go as field director. In its nine months the Fund has raised over \$600,000. The Fund is the only national political action committee which aids candidates for national office who "are committed to Americans' right to sexual privacy." The HRCF says its literature is on the "front line in the battle to insure that all Gays are equal before the law." The HRCF is not aligned to any political party, and in the 1982 elections 81% of those candidates who it helped bankroll were elected.

Said Foster as he boarded his plane for New York City to wind up his affairs. "Another weekend like this one I don't need..." ■



The Sisters misspell the name but make the point on City Hall steps.



Robert Opel's Murderers Convicted

(Continued from Page 1)

decision before noon.

Opel, an upfront, sometimes outrageous Gay, owned and operated the Fey Way Gallery at 1287 Howard Street where he worked with avant garde art, photography, video films, and theater pieces.

Opel came to San Francisco from Southern California where he began his professional life as a school administrator. He gained momentary fame as a nude protestor at a Los Angeles City Council meeting in the mid-70's and next streaking the Oscar telecast. He lost his job over these antics. Opel was much involved in the South of Market leather scene and also dealt in drugs. As described at the time, "He made no effort to hide his drug dealing . . . he was very indiscreet about it." Another person remarked, "He bought and sold vast amounts of drugs . . . dealing with a low class clientele . . . mainly in PCP — angel dust."

Opel helped Camille O'Grady become a subculture star. O'Grady was a witness of his murder, and testified at this month's trial.

Opel, who was 39 at the



In one of his theatricals. Robert Opel. (Photo: Rink)

time to shoot and kill Robert Opel."

The murderers expected Opel to be alone; he was not. Camille O'Grady and another friend, Anthony Rogers, were there. Opel pleaded for his friends' lives. They were spared and later identified the killers to the police. Holt, Kennan, and Kelly were picked up at the S.F. Airport July 9. They were booked on flights to Miami. They were arrested and placed in the Hall of Justice — where a week later Kennan walked out of the jail undetected. He went to his father's home in San Bruno, got new firearms, and left. He was subsequently re-arrested.

During this period O'Grady feared for her life and went underground.

Kennan and Kelly were defended by court-appointed attorneys. In an ironic twist, *Bay Area Reporter* accounts of the 1979 killing were subpoenaed by the defense lawyers — in a "fishing" maneuver. The newspaper was introduced into the trial in an attempt to impeach the testimony of star witness Camille O'Grady. Assistant District Attorney Murray successfully prosecuted the case.



A 1979 shot of the Fey Way Gallery on Howard Street, scene of the murder. (Photo: Rink)

Lamble KGO Weekend

"One of the depressing things about Gayness being accepted is that we'll lose that sense of the in-group, the adventure of being different in a straight world . . . that secret society — Little Orphan Annie's decoding society." Saturday night at 7:05 Lesbian performer Pat Bond will recall what she meant by those words spoken in the film *Word is Out*. Pat Bond will also talk about what it was like to be a young Lesbian right after World War II in the Women's Army Corps: "There was a lot of pressure to look butch if you were. And, of course, you wanted to, 'cause you wanted to be identified as a dyke." Pat Bond will be the guest on the Saturday night edition of *The David Lamble Talk Show* from 7:05 to

10 p.m. on KGO-FM (FM 104). Joining Pat from Toronto, Canada, will be writer Michael Lynch. Lynch is the author of *The Case Against Panic* in the November issue of *The Body Politic*, Canada's national Gay paper. Writing of the panic inspired by the increasing cases of AIDS related diseases among Gay men, Michael Lynch says, "This panic could never have set in so quickly and so deeply if within the hearts of Gay men there weren't already a persistent anti-sexual sense of guilt, ready to be tapped . . . Gays are once again allowing the medical profession to define, restrict, pathologize us. What used to be a psychiatric pathology is now an infectious one."

Sunday night from 7:05 to

8 p.m. David's guests will continue the community debate over the spousal benefit legislation vetoed by San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein. From 8:05 to 10 p.m. spend two hours with an entertaining group of per-

formers two hours with an entertaining group of performers assembled by comic/singer Lea Delaria. Performing on the show with David and Lea will be Static Cling, an improvisational theatre group; The Leopard Set playing acoustical jazz, and the music and comedy of Les Niclettes. Listeners to *The David Lamble Talk Shows* are urged to join in the fun by calling 928-0104 or just by tuning in FM 104 Saturday and Sunday nights from 7:05 to 10 p.m.

Police Raid Gay Magazine Office

On November 1 Washington, D.C., police raided the office of Stars magazine and the home of the magazine's publisher in what they described as an investigation of child pornography. Magazines, business records, and photographs were confiscated in the raid, which had been prompted, according to Detective Joseph Haggerty, by receipt of signed statements

from juveniles "who had been solicited to pose for the magazine."

No arrests were made and no charges have been filed, but Haggerty says the confiscated materials and the results of further investigation may later be presented to a grand jury. Since the magazine is distributed through the mail to other states, Haggerty said

federal authorities may become involved in the case.

Stars editor and publisher Glenn Turner said he doubts criminal charges will be filed. He attributes the raid to "a lot of overactive glands on the part of the police department." He further denied reports in the Washington, D.C., *Blade* that subscription lists were confiscated.

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Supes Toss Gay Benefits Bill Into '83

(Continued from Page 1)

one thought putting domestic partners into the law would jeopardize marriage. "No one said that would be a threat," he said. "Gays and Lesbians are sick and tired of hearing that we are a threat to society. The *Chronicle* owes us an apology for comparing Gays and Lesbians to barnyard animals."

As to religious leaders Britt said, "I wish they would be as diligent to seek understanding of the life of the Gays and Lesbians in this city. Something bad happens when government lets these groups push their morality on the rest."

As he had no chance to discuss the veto with the mayor or with the other board members, he moved to "re-refer" the actions of the mayor and postpone reconsideration until January 3, the last meeting of this board. "I'll meet with each member of the board to see their concerns, and with the mayor with her reservations. I really do not feel I am prepared to debate this issue today."

Supervisor Silver spoke and said she would support the motion to continue the matter. "As chair of the Civil Service and General Administration Committee, I will set a special meeting this Friday to discuss it, assuming it will be sent back. I concur with Supervisor Britt. This is important and significant."

Supervisor Molinari said, "It's important we deal with this matter in a straightforward way." As the mayor said she is willing to work something out, he wants to see not only this option but the others that were sent back. He warned Britt that it would be impossible to get new legislation by Friday.

A long discussion followed about the wording of the motion so that it would say what they want to do, namely send the matter back to committee and then act on the mayor's veto on January 3. They decided they can send the subject of the motion back without the legislation.

Supervisor Dolson said, "I think we understand this was an important matter to a large number of Lesbian and Gay couples. I don't know if everyone understands the backlash. No one knows if in delay how much polarization will be caused. Though I'll vote against the delay, I'll wish you well."

"I have probably had more sleepless nights since ever I've been on the Board of Supervisors," Supervisor Renne said. "Too many members of that community have made too many important contributions for any of us to turn our backs on them." But she felt this was not the right way to go; this was tearing apart the people of this city. "In its own way in spite of intentions, a spirit of tolerance and respect that has always guided this city... [this legislation] really doesn't make strides for any group, but makes strides backward."

As to whether this would give health benefits to domestic partners, Renne said, "That's not true; that's not true. We don't have it in our power to give health benefits. Only the Health Services Committee can do that." She noted, "We have anything but a health service plan that is on the cutting edge. It really is pretty primitive by today's

standards. People say, 'You were appointed by the mayor; you always vote to sustain the mayor's veto.' Of course just two weeks ago on the condominium conversion I voted to overturn the mayor's veto on this issue." Renne believes this legislation will not accomplish what it is meant to, and that the mayor in this case is right. There was insufficient communication with all sections of San Francisco. "I personally am committed to go forward on this legislation, but I beg the Board of Supervisors to do this in such a way to increase communication." Given the holidays and the board's schedule, she also felt it was unrealistic that a review could be done by January 3. "We didn't explain in sufficient detail. I think the mayor herself is willing to go back to the drawing board."

gisto added, "Why all that anger and hostility over something that doesn't cost anything?"

Supervisor Silver then summarized why all that anger was there. She said that people in San Francisco want "the freedom not to be bound into what Archbishop Quinn called, the covenant of marriage." (More than 50 percent of the city is single.) "It is important that single is their designation, not necessarily lonely as their condition. Help them maintain those families. We want to encourage family, the family our city employees choose to live in. It is a radical step toward the freedom of expression of freedom of religion not seen in this country. An important step. A very new step. Not for the benefit of Gay and Lesbian couples, but for all of us whether couples, married or not. For the rights of many other people who live in San Francisco and who do not choose to enter into the covenant of marriage."

Dolson said the key was section 46.2a. "Change this section else we are back with the same concerns. If you have ears to hear you will understand." He read the

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Supervisor Harry Britt realizing he hasn't the votes to override Dianne Feinstein's veto (shy on December 13 by 4 defections) moves to delay his spousal rights bill to January 3. If it comes back before the Board it will be a horse of a different color — so say insiders (Photo: Rink)

section which says in city law any place which refers to married partners would now also refer to domestic partners and emphasized, "This is the heart of the matter we are talking about."

* * *

At 3:55 Britt could be seen through an open door pacing back and forth in back of the meeting room.

Nelder made one final comment before the vote. "This issue is not a yes or no vote. This legislation is not a single piece of legislation . . . it's very poor legislation." She feels this is two issues, rights of the bereaved, and legislation with economic ramifications. It does not address whether relatives should get benefits. "That's discrimination and that's not fair. I'll vote the same way because of these reservations."

But they were not voting on the law, they were voting to send it back to committee for further recommendation. The vote was unanimous to do so, and to take up the matter of the mayor's veto on January 3. ■

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RELIGION AND US



The Task Force Report: Petard Hoisting

RICK WEATHERLY

In September a task force of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco issued a report titled "Homosexuality and Social Justice." But you probably already knew that if you read newspapers, watch television, or subscribe to *Time* or *Newsweek*. Rarely, at least in my memory, has an issue concerning Gay people and religion received such widespread attention. The substance of the report has been well reported in the mainline and Gay media. Its significance and context have not.

The report is significant and deserves widespread distribution because it is a piercingly eloquent statement of the position of Gay Catholics and their supporters. Though I did nervously wonder if my money would wind up in Archdiocesan coffers (there to further brutalize Lesbians and Gay men) I did pay my money and took my chances. I was not disappointed. I have my doubts as to the report's relevance to Gay people generally, since its ideas break no new ground either socially or theologically. But it is not the content of the report that makes it so important; it is its unprecedented status as an official report of an arm of the Roman church itself. These appeals for justice and recon-

sideration of traditional views have been made before, but not from within.

Roman Catholic theologizing is the cricket match of theology. It is a mass of intricate and mysterious motions and events, long periods of nothing happening, then much commotion and hubbub that leaves most outsiders wondering what happened and why. The Task Force Report is no exception. When R.C. folks do theology, it is (I promise; last allegory) like a minut. Everyone must follow an exacting pattern of motions and counter-motions... no one can simply start a new step or they are declared "out" and no longer can play. Rather, one must be fully a part of the dance and, then, ever so carefully one may begin gently to question whether the music is as perfect as it could be or the steps as graceful as possible. Sowing doubt, one can then introduce a new rhythm. If you succeed (most don't) then the whole dance changes, massively. Voilà! Vatican II.

What Gay Catholic theologian Kevin Gordon and his Task Force have done is to join in the theological dance in such a way as to have entered a bold counter-rhythm to the Roman church's tradi-

tional juggernaut of abuse heaped on homosexuals. It remains to be seen if it will result in any change or just get ruled out of order, but the counter-rhythm has been played. Maybe the dance will change. Likely not, at least not by this effort alone. Usually you only know as a Roman Catholic that you've said something significant and useful about human sexuality when you are told to shut up. Fr. John McNeil learned that as his book, *The Church and The Homosexual*, received its highest accolade from the Vatican when its author was "silenced" by Curial decree.

The Task Force report will, in all likelihood, be dismissed by the powers that be. That has certainly been the pattern with similar efforts in the U.S. Protestant churches. But documents have a life of their own beyond the wishes of the "powers." This report comes, however tentatively and peripherally, from within the structure of the Roman church. This will allow and promote its use far beyond anything that could be expected of an identical report issued by an unofficial group. Its impact may well be profound in the long run. This prospect no doubt horrifies the Archbishop.

I speculate that John Quinn was hoping to win the silence of his much shat upon Gay flock by throwing them the bone of an easy-to-ignore Task Force report. It was drafted and issued only with, at least, his acquiescence and knowledge. Kevin Gordon may be using this episcopal miscalculation to hoist the bishop by his own petard. Quinn, one of U.S. Catholicism's fastest rising young

hierarchs, no doubt sees his path toward a cardinal's red hat endangered by continual press interest in the church vs. Gay community disputes in S.F. Controversy of any kind makes Rome very nervous and bishops who keep winding up in the news make it not to Rome but to Podunk... forever. A quieted Gay population would help immensely.

What Quinn has on his hands now is a report so eloquent and outspoken, so well argued within the traditional strictures of its ilk, that it may engender more controversy than it quiets. When a copy reaches the conservative Pole who now sits on Peter's chair, something will hit the fan and it won't be Chrism.

To outsiders unfamiliar with the Roman system, the report may seem to rest mysteriously in mid-air since its 54 recommendations lack the necessary foundation. This is because the Task Force was forbidden to address the central issue (indeed, the only directly relevant issue) of whether the church's teach-

ings about homosexuality are wrong or right. Protesting with sharp commentary and questions, the Task Force nonetheless obeyed. Such is the price paid for proper accreditation. You will look in vain for any forthright declaration that the church is wrong or that Gay is OK. Don't let that trouble you. The report's tone makes clear how they feel even if they ritually cannot utter the words.

(A historical side comment: The report contains an interesting comparison between the current U.S. Religious New Right and "fundamentalist" German Christians enabling and staffing Hitler's regime. It's interesting, but it is also false. The Nazis' chief religious supporters were the established Evangelical (read: Lutheran) churches and the Roman church which added prayers for *Der Führer* to the Mass in 1933. I suppose that this is nit-picking, but by such stretching to make one's point, history is bastardized and its lessons lost.) ■

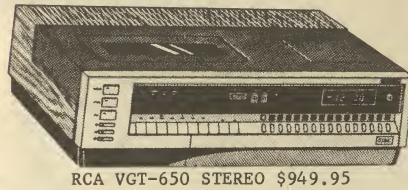
Discrimination Cases Sought

Representatives and leaders of UC Lesbian and Gay student organizations met and conferred in a 2-day conference November 13 and 14 to plan ways of searching out and documenting cases of discrimination against persons in the system due to their sexual orientation.

The conference, hosted by UCLA's G.A.L.A., marked the third time this year that the recently formed Lesbian and Gay Intercampus Network met. The group will seek documentable cases of

discrimination within the student, staff, and faculty UC populations. An extensive questionnaire will be distributed in early 1983 on all UC campuses. The confidential responses will then be compiled to serve as proof of mass discrimination and repression. Individuals with specific cases of discrimination are being asked to come forward to their campus Gay and Lesbian organizations. Diane Pansire, (642-6942 or David W. Kinnick, 825-8500. ■

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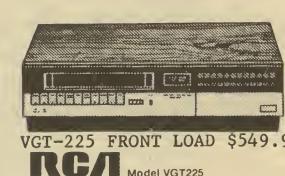
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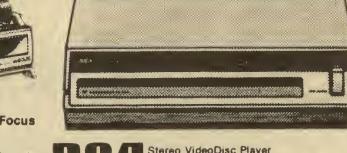
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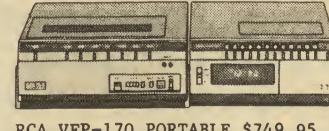
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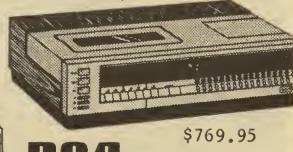


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BAY AREA REPORTER DEC. 16, 1982 PAGE 19

Renaissance Blooms — But Not For Gays

Homosexuality in Renaissance England
By Alan Bray
Gay Men's Press - \$15.00
Flatiron Book Distributors
Suite 814-175 5th Ave.,
New York, New York 10010

by Frank Howell

"The Renaissance concern for classical ideals was taken by the homosexual reformers of the late nineteenth century and their successors as implying a tolerant attitude to homosexuality. It was not sound history. The broadening of the human spirit this implied had more to do with the desire for law reform in nineteenth century England than with the actuality of Renaissance Europe, whose attitude as far as homosexuality was concerned were directly derived with little change from late medieval times."

It is amazing how we distort the past to suit our own purposes. Gay historians can be

especially guilty when they attempt to envision a golden era when homoerotic love was in flower.

Unfortunately, few eras in human history can qualify. Even ancient Greece was heterosexual in many ways. Renaissance England had just emerged from the infamous Dark Ages. The homophobia of those times survived in fact.

Alan Bray, in a most illuminating analysis, shows that witchcraft trials were sometimes indirect attacks on suspected homosexuals. Anti-Catholic campaigners often focused their rage on priests and nuns who lacked any male-female outlets. Writers of satire also made hay by mocking the ways in which aristocrats frolicked about the king's court. Charles I was especially outrageous. Edward Coke, a pious observer during that day, remarked that Gayness was produced by "pride, excess of diet, idle-

ness, and contempt of the poor."

Powerful images of Sodom and Gomorrah still reigned supreme.

Bray provides us with a scholarly survey of the social trends of this period. He does not concentrate on famous events and people, except for Christopher Marlowe who was one of the few who dared combat the bigotry around him. He found himself in hot water because some gossip said Marlowe had once claimed that Christ and St. John were lovers!

Bray draws an arresting idea when he studies the transformation that seeped into the social fabric between the close of the Renaissance and the dawn of the Enlightenment. During the earlier times the sexuality of individuals was kept vague and was of no overwhelming significance unless a crime was committed. Then in the 18th century Gay life as we know it began to take a definite shape. The age of specialization was arriving. Gays were now identified as a particular group.

The shock of recognition arrives with the rise of the "molly house." Here we find a peculiar combination of prostitution and underground comradery. The first homophobic raids of their day were made by the Moral Majority of that period, known as the Societies For The Reformation of Manners. Ironically, the police of the time were not interested.

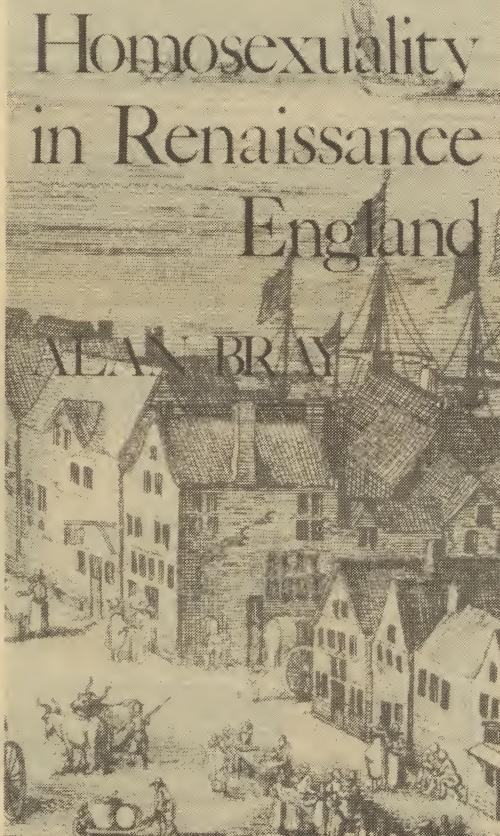
Samuel Stevens, an undercover agent for the Society relates what he found in the Molly House (London, 1725),

I found between forty and fifty men making love to one another, as they called it. Sometimes they would sit in one another's laps, kissing in a lewd manner and using their hands indecently. Then they would get up, dance and make curtsies and mimic the voices of women... Then they would hug, and play and toy, and go out by couples into another room on the same floor to be married, as they called it.

Some of the first Gay slang probably originated during this time. A place where sex took place was the "chapel." Intercourse itself was known as "marrying" or a "wedding night." The sexual partner was the "husband."

Unfortunately many of the molly houses were raided and some of those poor souls who were caught were convicted and hanged.

Human sexuality cannot be viewed apart from the context of the age in which a person lives. The Renaissance was no exception. Bray's thoughtful research has helped us reclaim another valuable part of our obscured past.



A Step Forward For The Suspense Novel

Backtrack
by Joseph Hansen
Countryman Press
Woodstock, Vermont. \$12.95

by Frank Howell

"When he came here," he gulped, "I didn't know anything about it... It never passed through my mind that I could be, like, gay, all right? And then, there he was, and he, well, he just kind of made it happen. I mean, ah, Christ, what a beautiful, easy dude. Afterward, I didn't feel any different, didn't feel, well... like a faggot. I mean, we did it a lot. And it was just — good, you know? I mean, having somebody hold you!"

Joseph Hansen seems destined to follow the gumshoe trail blazed by Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett. The old style detective, who probably never existed, is once again laying claim to the popular imagination. The Dave Bransetter series is now *de rigueur* among discerning mystery fans. The gay sleuth is firmly established. From time to time Hansen pulls a detour and writes a story about weather beaten survivors who are not in the detective trade. His recent work, *A Smile In His Lifetime*, a prime example.

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In *Backtrack*, Alan Tarr, a young man in his late teens, sets out to find the murderer of his father, Eric Tarr.

The death of Tarr has been ruled a suicide by the police, but young Tarr is determined to seek the truth not only about his father's death, but an even larger question: Who was Eric Tarr, failed Hollywood actor? Perhaps then Alan can learn something about his own identity. For Alan never knew him. Eric left Babe, Alan's mother, when Alan was six months old.

The legwork brings Alan into contact with the assortment of beaten losers we usually find in a Hansen novel.

Earthy as the Ground

Zami - A New Spelling of My Name
by Audre Lorde
Persephone Press; paper, \$7.95

by Sue Zemel

Audre Lorde refers to her latest work, *Zami - A New Spelling of My Name*, as biomythography. Constructed from dreams, myths and histories, this compelling book charts the course of Lorde's complicated life: growing up during the Depression in Harlem, the youngest and most rebellious of three daughters in a West Indian family; striking out on her own at the age of 18, deeply affected by the suicide of her best friend and first love, Gennie; coming to terms with her love of women, and exploring what it meant to be Black and a Lesbian in the 1950's and early 60's.

"I walked down those three little steps into the Basatelle on a weekend night in 1956. There was an inner door, guarded by a male bouncer, ostensibly to keep out the straight male intruders come to gawk at the 'lezzies,' but in reality to keep out those women deemed 'undesirable.' All too frequently undesirable meant Black."

Lorde talks about the racism she and her friends repeatedly encountered, both in the world-at-large and within the embryonic women's community: "It was hard enough to be Black, to be Black, Female and Gay. To be Black, Female, Gay and out in a white environment, even to the extent of dancing in the Bagatelle was considered by many Black Lesbians to be simply suicidal."

She describes role-playing, the survival mechanism which characterized many of the relationships of both Black and white women who frequented the bars. Noting that she was neither cute or passive enough to be femme, nor mean and tough enough to be butch, Lorde says that she was "given a wide berth. Nonconventional people can be dangerous even in the Gay community."

Lorde proves to be an invaluable historian, making known aspects of Lesbian life that have previously not been exposed.

The language Lorde uses is passionate and poetic. She also is an able storyteller, who possesses the ability to bring you into a scene, opening wide your senses so that you not only feel what she is describing, you can taste, touch, and smell her experience. The sensuality of Lorde's writing, along with the directness and clarity of her style makes the book accessible and a pleasure to read.

In the prologue she writes: "I have always wanted to be both man and woman, to incorporate the strongest and richest parts of my mother and father within/into me — to share valleys and mountains upon my body, the way the earth does in hills and

peaks... Woman forever. My body, a living representation of other life older longer wiser. The mountains and valleys, trees, rocks. Sand and flowers and water and stone. Made in earth." It is precisely this earthiness, this brown groundedness that I love about Lorde's writing.

Zami is a Carricou name for women who work together as friends and lovers. (Carricou is a small spice island in the Caribbean.) Appropriately, Lorde writes mostly of her relationships with *Zami*, explaining: "Every woman I have ever loved has left her print upon me, where I have loved some invaluable piece of myself apart from me — so different that I had to stretch and grow in order to recognize her. And in that growing, we came to separation, that place where work begins. Another meeting."

The women you meet in Lorde's book are both desirable and disturbing, defiant and difficult. There's her mother, a powerful Black Island woman who warns her willful daughter, "Wherever the bird with no feet flew she found trees with no limbs." There's Ginger, the first woman with whom Lorde made love: "Our bodies found the movements we needed to fit each other. Ginger's flesh was sweet and moist and firm as a winter pear. I felt her and tasted her deeply, my hands and my mouth and my whole body moved against her. Her flesh opened to me like a peony and the unfolding depths of her pleasures brought me back to her body again and again throughout the night." Eudora is a one-breasted amazon who shares her knowledge of Mexico and of writing with young Lorde; and finally there's Muriel, the forever/after lover with whom she exchanges poetry and passion until their painful break-up.

Lorde manages to reveal the contradictions in each woman's character as well as in herself. Her honesty and insight make her one of the Lesbian community's most valuable natural resources. The integrity of her latest creative effort is inspiring.

Joanna Payne is a pitiful hag of a woman who had once been a budding starlet and a girl friend of Eric's in more glamorous days; Toddy Niles, the worldly Hollywood agent who was entangled in the gay side of Eric's life; Sewell, a hard bitten cop who is also investigating the death of the senior Tarr; and Sage Carruthers, a sensitive hippie who reaches out in desperation to Alan for love and protection from life itself.

Hanson has been criticized for generally portraying gays as failed humans but the

charge is not entirely true. Hope can be found embedded in the climax of even his darkest probings of the heart. *Backtrack* may strike the reader in this fashion. Alan finally adjusts to the fact of his dad as a lover of men and he also learns that if there is a line separating gays from straights it is a shaky one that slides back and forth like a fault line in an earthquake.

Hansen fans will be rewarded with another telling exploration of the human comedy when they plunge into *Backtrack*.

BAY AREA REPORTER

GREATER BAY NEWS

AN JOSE SANTA CLARA CUPERTINO SUNNYVALE REDWOOD CITY PALO ALTO MONTEREY PLEASANT HILL VALLEJO BERKELEY WALNUT CREEK CAMPBELL FREMON

OAKLAND

Three Times a Night

NEZ PAS

EMBARRAS DE CHOIX (A Divided Nose?)

Once again, dear reader, you have to make a choice on the evening of Monday, December 12. I'll give you three possibilities...

At the Lake Merritt Hotel, **Fantasy Night** presented by Grand Duke I, Rick. It's a tree trimming for charity, wherein the trees and baskets of food will be distributed to the needy throughout the area. I would imagine the festivities will begin around 6:30 or 7, but check out the posters for definite details.

This is Rick's first adventure in "eventing," so I know that he is ready, willing, and eager for as many of you as possible to be there.

On the very same evening, at Revol, Tony Valentine is presenting **Together at Last**, a tribute to Emperor Gene and Empress Mae of San Francisco. Cocktails begin at 6:30, with Larry Holst "doing his thing." Showtime is at 7:30, with Lynda Bergren

entertaining; the buffet is at 8:30. Mistress and Master of Ceremonies will be Linda Lovelash and Tony Valentine, and the Hostess and Host will be none other than Grand Duchess Vinnie and Ken Wright (Crown Prince de San Francisco).

That's quite a lot for the \$8 admission, and all proceeds go to the MCC Senior Citizen and Community Christmas Day Dinner.

And, would you believe, on the very same eveing, Hans' and Sutter Club have joined forces and are presenting **Zigfield Rejects of 1937½**. Check their flyers for exact times and donation charges.

Oh, by the way, all of the above are members of the F.D.I.C., and there may be penalty for early withdrawal (!). Of course local tax and licensing, along with current regulations do prevail. And... batteries are not included! Some assembly may be required, and deposits made before the 15th earn interest

from the 1st. Remember that there is only one entry per household, and members of the organizations may not enter... unless line 14 is totaled and subtracted from line 7, in which case you may or may not be entitled to participate in the "Save Ironsides" campaign! After all, loose lips can sink ships and a penny saved is... a penny save.

CHRISTMAS IN THE OAKLAND AREA (A Noel Nose?)

Bench and Bar — serving dinner Christmas Eve. They will open early on Christmas day at 2:30. There will be no food served on Christmas night, but... there will be no cover charge, either! And... Michael promised and guaranteed that it would definitely be a "festive evening!"

Lake Lounge — Christmas Day regular hours — 10:30 AM to 2 AM. Free Christmas buffet starting at 4 PM. Fred has some "extras" planned for this one!

Lancers — Regular hours during Christmas week, except for an 8:00 PM opening on Christmas day.

Ollies — regular hours during Christmas week, as of this writing, no special plans for Christmas eve or Christmas day; but check with them as (Continued on next page)

Christmas Eve in the East Bay

HAYWARD

Marantha
Metropolitan Community
Church

Friday, December 24
10 pm - 12 Midnight
Carols
Candlelight
Holy Communion
Midnight Dessert Party
(Potluck)

2257 Bayview Ave.
(off of Kelly)
881-5649
Rev. Jodi Saifer
Pastor

(Continued from previous page)

they are likely to spring a surprise... right, Sue?

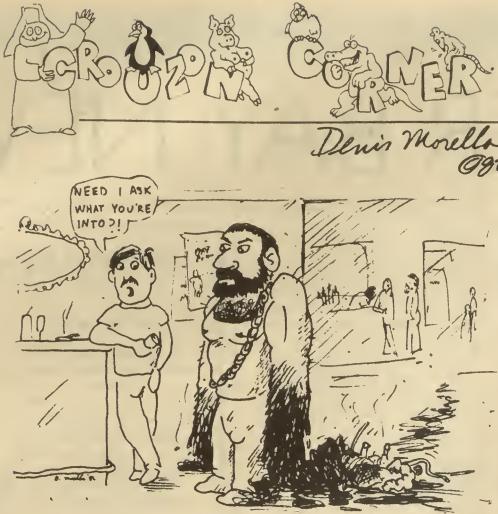
Revol — Special entree selection on Christmas Eve, along with the regular prime rib and open menu. The dining room will be open on Christmas Night, with the standard menu in effect. Who knows what Hagatha has planned for the bar????

White Horse — They celebrated early, on Wednesday, December 15 with their Christmas Party. Naturally, they had no cover charge (they never do!) and their buffet was fabulous. The live music, Berkeley Jazz Ensemble, added to the spirit of the season, to be sure.

Off my beat — Hayward is getting into the "spirit" as it were, and there are several "festive" goings-on at Big Mama's and the Turf Club. Also, don't forget the Hub in Walnut Creek... Christmas is special out there, so be prepared for a really good time.

SALMAGUNDI (A Mixed Nose?)

Coming up in January is the Third Annual Chili Cook-off! Bigger and better prizes this



time, but the proceeds still will go to Alameda County Special Olympics. Stay tuned for complete details, but get your recipes in order...

I was led to believe that the "Miss \$1.98 Beauty Contest" would be held every six months... it should be coming

along any day now... probably on the night of the Chili Cook-Off!

King Father and Queen Mother of all California are supposed to have a couple of functions; and, I'm sure, we will be hearing from them in the very near future! ... won't we????

Bob (Becky of Revol) is out

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East Bay Gay and Lesbian community"

Diablo Rap

"Christmas Eve Support" will be offered by the Diablo Valley MCC at their Gay Rap Support Group scheduled for Friday, December 24. The group meets every Friday night from 8 to 9:30 PM in the D.V.M.C.C. Center at 1818 Colfax. Info: 827-2960. ■

Toys for Tots

The Interlude, 4942 Stevens Creek in Santa Clara will present a Talent for Tots benefit on Saturday, December 18th at 9 PM. A buffet dinner will be available for \$1. Bring a Toy for a Child. The show will be M.C.'d by popular Southbay bartender Andy Cunha, with entertainment by the Force 5Tees, Tiny (you won't have trouble seeing him) Reforma and Lucy Manhattan. Proceeds will go to Toys for Tots. ■

of the hospital and should be returning to the boards very soon. Everyone is happy that he was too stubborn; he's doing just fine, thank you!

And by the by... I did hear that K.R. told F.F. that J.D. did all of the accusations to P.M. Now, it has to be proved just when all of this took place... and I know. And, if my Christmas stocking isn't stuffed to the gills, I just may

spill the beans... I know it's all perfectly legal, but the way "they" went about it is within the realm of professionalism. So, W.B., why are you insisting that I make an issue of it? Let sleepings dogs lie... they may awake to bite you! Present me with presents.

1983 is not far away... wear your smile every day! ■

Love, Nez

FROM FIFTH POSITION

Direct Appeal Rare in Modest Company

KEITH WHITE

Choreographer Gary Palmer, openly gay, has made such extensive use of the political courtesy of Gay businesses and press (to advertise Gay artists) that I judge to be related to Palmer's partnering style; a strong attack (the girl jumps or steps onto his back, shoulder, whatever) and a sloppy resolution (she falls off, rolls off or is dropped off). It frequently looked like contact improvisation without the spontaneity. Palmer composes dance phrases against the music (his focus appears to be visual and not at all lyrical), so I think he is better of choreographing to less metered scores, like Erik Walker's composition for "Subterranean." In this particular duet, the music had ended before the dance was resolved, so it was simply finished in silence.

"Rose Sherbets" and "Paths," the last two works on the program, were choreographed for all four dancers and incorporated all the elements of the first two works: "Rose Sherbets" to a composition for harp, "Paths" to a modern (electronic?) score by

The opening work on the program, "Subterranean," is for



The Gary Palmer Dance Company in "Rose Sherbets."

the three women. It has a modern, supernatural-sounding score of electronic music and effects enhanced by the composer's live percussion additions; the choreography is simple and geometric. The dancers' energy is held in suspension and the choreography never allows them a full physical release. In composition, the dance is essentially a typical experiment of relating forms in space, yet it contains occasional gestures that appear to carry dramatic significance with a serious capital S. If literal interpretations exist for any of the dances on this program, I never got them - and the three dancers looked uncertain about it too. Only Jonni McPhee has enough natural presence and secure carriage of her upper body to look comfortable in spite of the unclear focus of the choreography.

McPhee and Gary Palmer performed a duet, "Return," to Debussy piece for cello and piano - beginning with a long, contemplative solo for McPhee (again, what she was

Sasha Matson, executive director of the Centerspace, under which umbrella the Palmer company (and Christopher Beck's company) operate. "Paths" was the most successful dance of the evening, creating the most provocative geometry.

Palmer's work on this program quickly became predictable. Possibilities are limited by the lack of even one other male dancer to enrich the shape and relationship compositions with which the work is most concerned. Gary Palmer Dance Company is a modest undertaking, and I admire the tenacity required of independent choreographers trying to maintain life in today's arid arts economy (California ranking 49th in the nation in percentage of tax dollars per capita invested in arts support, according to a recent City Arts report). Dance companies must appeal directly to their audiences more now than ever before if the dance boom is to stay alive through the Eighties. ■



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Bud, Bud Light, Miller Lite \$.85
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BAY AREA REPORTER

ENTERTAINMENT

TAGE SCREEN SHOWS ROCK OPERA INTERVIEWS BOOKS MUSIC THE ARTS STAGE SCREEN SHOWS ROCK OPERA INTERVIEWS BOOKS MUSIC THE ARTS STAGE SCREEN

Gay Couples: Out Here On Our Own

*Within the isolation of a Pollyanna Pose,
Gays Seek Intimacy and Answers*

by M. Walker

"Do you find that one of you usually instigates sex, and if the other one tries to, nothing happens?" Larry asked. I was a little taken aback. It was the first time he and I had been alone together since Tom and I had met him and his lover Don. This was getting personal at break-neck speed.

"Yes," I said, "and I don't understand it." His face lit up with a smile and he said, "I knew it, I could just tell that you two were going through a lot of the same problems that we've been having."

We talked then, for an hour or so, comparing notes, couching our questions in ambiguous terms at first, but gradually becoming more at ease.

It was a precious hour of what our mothers would have called "girl talk," complete with a certain amount of bitching about "the old man." Those labels are not meant to demean the experience. It was a rare one. Of course we didn't find any answers. What we found was a lot of experiences in common, a sympathetic ear, a release for some of the pent-up frustrations that living in a Gay couple can create.

I have had such talks before. Well, maybe twice in ten years. But Larry, during seven years of living with Don, never had.

"We meet couples and are friends for a while," he said, "and they come over and play cards, have dinner, watch TV, whatever. There's lots of laughter and small talk and it's fine, it's fun. But then all of a sudden the couple will break up and they disappear from our lives and we never even knew what was going on inside of their relationship. If you make any attempt to talk about relationships, to confide in other couples or to share experiences, offer advice, they back off. You'd think nobody had any problems!"

Ain't it the truth!

Gay liberation has made it possible for Gay couples to be visible generally. But they are still cloaked affairs; today's cloaks have bright colors, those of us in couples present a shining front to our fellows. "Nothing wrong here."

My lover sometimes says "look around. The beautiful, hot, happy Gay men you see are all in relationships." That's one view, and that's one of the reasons we put on a happy front, whatever may be happening between us. There is a community obligation to sustain the view that those of us in couples are the happiest of Gay men.

At the other end of the spectrum is the view that we are somehow not entirely out of the closet. After all, we are not out tasting the delights of the bars and baths and backrooms. (At least not visibly so.) When Gay liberationists defend promiscuity, as we should of course, we often in-

That is the heart of the matter — we are making it up as we go along. We are not aping straight marriage. And couple by couple, we are going it alone. We are synthesizing our relationships out of bits of whatever we can find — insights from Gay, women's and men's liberation, observations of older Gay couples we have admired and, yes, even memories of good things in our parents' and grandparents' lives.

You work with what's at hand. One thing that is generally not at hand is any kind of information about how other modern Gay couples are doing things.

A newly published "handbook for the Gay male" called

to each other.

So where do you turn when you're busy being a good lover and swallowing the grievances that seem too petty to bring up with your partner?

One answer could be the Gay press. A Gay Ann Landers then? I don't think so. I'm not interested in having someone tell me what to do. But I sure would like to know how other couples are doing it.

I think Larry hit on the idea of an advice column precisely because such things deal with the picayune and the mundane, the little things that, without you even knowing it, can be expressions of much larger problems.

What we have seen about couples in the Gay press has



"All Quiet on the Lover Front" can frequently be a brittle facade. Many Gay couples who twine together in public break apart in private. (Photo: Nina Glaser)

cidentally take swipes at couples. Since couples, at first glance, look like imitation marriages they do make awfully tempting targets.

The fact is that Gay liberation has very rarely gone beyond that first glance. Reading Gay papers you can easily get the impression that Gay couples stopped changing in 1959. That is nonsense.

Toward the end of our *tete-a-tete*, Larry said, "you know, I wish the newspaper you work for had an advice column, sort of a Gay Ann Landers."

Good lord, I thought, of all the things the Gay world could use the one thing we can definitely do without is Ann Landers. "Yeah," I said, after a pause, "but who would you trust to advise you? We're all making this up as we go along."

Coming Out Right says "Today's generation of Gay men may contribute a variety of tested man-to-man relationships as a legacy to the future." I laughed out loud when I read that. Sure, I thought, we'll just bring up our kids right. How is this rich legacy to be passed on when Gay couples don't talk to each other, share their experiences and their experiments?

Obviously there are barriers between couples that prevent the kind of intimate exchange that would be of real value. Part of it is that we view ourselves as a new generation of couples. We don't nag each other in private, we don't bitch our partners behind their backs, we don't claw each other's eyes out in public. And that's a positive development. But it's made our relationships into closed books. Those of us in couples don't seem to have any real access

generally been the grosser details such as the several possible patterns of dealing with sex outside of the relationship.

What we haven't seen is: "My lover is moving up in the business world very fast now, and sometimes he makes me feel that I am not doing anything with my life. In fact, I have been at the same job for a long time and there is something I would rather be doing. But to do it I will need his support both emotional and financial. He's not very encouraging about my plans. What can I do?"

Or: "We're thinking of buying a condo, but my lover has no credit rating at all. I don't mind borrowing the money but I know it will bother him if 'our' house is in my name. I know it's on his mind a lot already and if we go ahead with the plan it's going to create

problems for us. How can I convince him that it can still be 'ours' even if I put up the money?"

How about: "When we first got together, my lover and I were very imaginative sexually. We did a lot of things with each other that we had only fantasized about doing before. But gradually we learned each other's preferences and now we always seem to do the same thing. When one of us tries to introduce something new or different from the mainstreams, the other seems automatically to channel it back to the tried and true. We've tried to talk about it but it always seems like criticism and one of us gets defensive. Talking can make things worse too because we will try something different and both become self-conscious because it's an 'Experiment.' How on earth can we overcome this obstacle and get back to the hot and varied sex we used to have? We're both still very turned on to each other."

Are those convincingly Ann Landers-style letters? They are also real problems that may ring bells for readers in other couples. They are problems, however, that cannot be dealt with by a Gay Landers dispensing stock answers and standard etiquette. These questions are important precisely because they are mundane and because we require innovative and distinctly Gay answers to them. We do not, thank God, have any substantial body of etiquette for Gay relationships. We are making it up as we go along. But why must each isolated couple do all of its own innovating?

Isn't it time we had not an advice column, but an advice exchange? Isn't it time we stopped looking at Gay couples as a 50's anomaly, as a threat to the promiscuous norm, or as "doin' just fine, thanks" and realized that couples are also Gay people trying to push back the boundaries, trying to liberate themselves and create something new and valuable in its own right? Isn't it time that couples had a little room in Gay publications?

Let's talk. What do you do when you come on to your lover and he doesn't respond?

"Not an advice column, but an advice exchange." Write *Couples*, care of the B.A.R. and we'll publish — anonymously — how you feel about couples. What are the troubles and solutions you have found? Should we mirror heterosexual unions? How is your couple formed? We'd like to hear.

Inside Entertainment

o Tone Deaf spins Sylvester's new disc p. 25
o A Gay Who's Who and Who May Be p. 27
o New Movies Everywhere pp. 29, 30
o Anthology of Physique Photos a Phabulous Gift .. p. 34
o Leo Ford's New Movie Hits the Porn Corner p. 36

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From: Rusty

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Gay WHO Gay WHAT Gay WHERE Gay WHEN Gay WHY

Christmas Farewell

Now Sing With Hearts Aglow, the traditional holiday concert presented by the S.F. Lesbian/Gay Chorus and the S.F. Gay Men's Chorus, takes on a special poignance this year. The two performances mark the final appearances of Robin Kay with the Lesbian/Gay Chorus, a group she founded three years ago. Adored by her singers and applauded by her audiences, Kay's announcement of her leave-taking took many by surprise.

"I wished to plow new fields," Kay said to explain her resignation, "and leave with grace and ethics." No internal dissension caused her decision, but a desire to bring more music to the public.

"In my resigning from the GGPA I feel I'm actually ex-

anding the GALA network of choruses," she explained. "I'm starting a new group which will offer extended classical works in concerts of a purely classical orientation. So I'm not so much leaving as I am expanding. I'll be meeting different musical tastes, bringing a new repertoire to the Gay audience."

"The Chorus was so warm when I made my announcement. It's the kind of leaving that has the best of feelings all around."

"My last concerts with the mixed Chorus have a new feature — we'll be singing two Hanukkah pieces. We'll do a movement of Bloch's 'Sacred Service' in Hebrew, and a perfectly lovely arrangement of a traditional song called 'How Shall We Tell' in English. Both the Men's Chorus and the Mixed Chorus will do settings of 'O Magnum Mys-

terium,' by different composers, and our rousing finale will be the 'Hallelujah Chorus.'

"We'll be big on humor, of course, with some irreverent Christmas songs, and have something unusual with the debut of a quartet within the Chamber Chorus presenting a 16th century carol."

"We'll perform with the Men's Chorus to open the program, and after their portion of the concert we'll have our holiday audience sing-along, where we surround the audience with singers in our traditional circle of love."

Now Sing With Hearts Aglow will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on December 19 and 24 at Nourse Auditorium. Hayes and Franklin. Tickets are available at Amelia's Headlines, Continental Savings and Loan, the GGPA office at 480 Castro, and at the door. Wheelchair accessible and interpreted for the hearing impaired.

cism, but not as political speeches. I want to be entertaining!"

"My audience stems from the peace movement, and has grown with me through the nuclear arms movement



Speed of Light isn't only the title of Holly Near's newest album. It's a description of the momentum she will have attained when she concludes a five country European and 45 city US tour with a grand finale concert on December 18 at the Berkeley Community Theatre. The concert is the first time Bay Area audiences will be able to hear Near's new material live since the album's release.

Near has titled the tour Be Disarming: Challenge the Nuclear Mentality, and she explained her orientation to the B.A.R.

"I want to do all sorts of things in my life, but no matter what I do, I want a planet to do it on. The tour coincided with the release of my album, so we could have called it 'Album Release Tour'. But we called it 'Be Disarming'. That's not the sole content of the concert, although it certainly is an overriding presence. I try to deal with issues of disarmament, unemployment and ra-

and women's needs, so I've maintained a large male segment of an audience. These issues are particular to Gay men as well as women, and, of course, there's my love songs, which I keep pronounless."

"I have a single from the new album which has been getting Top 40 airplay. I haven't changed my style or content, but I asked my producers for a contemporary feel and they gave me a fine package. The content didn't get messed with in the process, which proves you can do something artistic and political, that can be popular with content. I get closer and closer to that goal."

"I want Gay men and the women of the women's movement to be good allies. I'd love Gay men to come and enjoy the entertainment, the music and the ideas. We've been putting on some really entertaining shows."

Holly Near at the Berkeley Community Theatre. December 18 at 8 PM. Wheelchair accessible, signed, with special seating for disabled and hearing-impaired. Tickets at BASS. Info: 885-0750.

All At Sea

It may be beneficial that a recent publicity release from the "We Love Boats" travel agency didn't have a wide Gay readership. Their office might otherwise have been deluged with mail of a sassy and shocking nature.

"Is Cruising Really For Me?" asked the bold print at the top of their travel brochure. Gay men will think more readily of vagrancy at home than the vacations at sea the travel agency was peddling. This impression wasn't helped much by the contest the agency sponsored

Everyone is welcome to contribute ideas, and a prize of \$50 will be given for the winning suggestion. The only ground rule is that the money must be spent for a permanent addition to the area, something which will enhance the quality of life for everyone.

Suggestions should be addressed to Castro Street Fair Contest, Box 14405, San Francisco, CA 94114. All entries must be postmarked no later than January 31, 1983. In the event of duplicate entries, prize money will be awarded to the earliest postmarked letter. Please do not telephone.

A decision will be made by the Fair's Board of Directors before February 15, 1983 and will be announced to the public.

to help them cash in on cruising. This contest asked people to submit their unusual bizarre, or funny cruising experiences. They were promised that the best cruising stories might turn up on the Love Boat TV series.

It's a good thing this agency has a predominantly straight mailing list. Imagine Love Boat scripts laced with "Cruising on Castro," "Flotsam of Folsom" or "Regata on Ringold" episodes.

The agency came up with the cruising angle to stay afloat — the Gay side to the story might capsize the boat, and quickly at that!

A.I.D.S. Info

A.I.D.S. — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — will be the subject as David Chaney talks to Dr. Paul Volberding, the man in charge of treating A.I.D.S. patients at S.F. General Hospital, and with an A.I.D.S. patient, on Sunday, December 19, at 6:30 AM on 98.9 FM.

ROMANTIC FIREPLACE VICTORIAN CHARM COZY MAGGIE'S

There is a charming little restaurant on 24th Street between Diamond and Castro called MAGGIE'S. Try MAGGIE'S for dinners specializing in Fresh Seafood, Chicken and Pasta. Call 285-4443 for reservations and spend a cozy relaxing evening in front of our crackling fireplace.

TONE DEAF TONE DEAF TONE

All I Need

JERRY DE GRACIA

Joe's Shows is throwing a Christmas dance party Saturday, December 18, at the Harrison Street Theatre (formerly Dreamland). The party features Sylvester, who will be premiering his latest album All I Need.

Sylvester's last album, Too Hot To Sleep, lacked the firework we expect, but on All I Need Sylvester jumps right back into the frying pan with an up-tempo collection of funk and disco. He even wets his feet in rock, mainly the work of guitarist/producer James Wirick, in a shameless



A newest photo of Sylvester, who premieres his new album at a dance on December 18.

show of vocal prowess he's not only quite capable of, but also loves wallowing in.

Sylvester's new lp goes against the Top 40 grain and unabashedly grooves in a predominantly disco vein — a brazen and successful endeavor which would make most musicians consider suicide before attempting. But Sylvester

vester's earlier hit single "Do Ya Wanna Funk," which was written and produced by Patrick Cowley and brought both artists back together as a recording team after a long hiatus. The song stands as a testament to Cowley's talent as a songwriter and producer and to Sylvester's ability to get off his ass and move when the music's right.

Diana Ross Did It Better

Of all the great Motown hits, The Supremes' "You Can't Hurry Love" ranks as one of the best and singer Phil Collins' version on his new album Hello, I Must Be Going is an excellent cover of that pop classic.

This great song has remained in the vaults for years. The fact that Collins had the commercial insight to record it reveals his penchant for great music and a pretty penny. Unfortunately the rest of his album fails to sustain the spirit of "You Can't Hurry Love". The rest of Hello, I Must Be Going, belongs on easy listening radio where appealing music is not a prerequisite for airplay.

Sakamoto and Yellow Magic

James Clavell's fascinating studies of Oriental culture in "Shogun" and "Taipan" revealed an interesting and persistent Asian trait — the ability to assimilate progress with tradition without destroying thousands of years of history.

Riuchi Sakamoto's Left Handed Dream which

*With the shriek of his wailing falsetto
Sylvester has brought disco into the eighties.*

has never been known for his subtlety, and with the shriek of his wailing falsetto he has managed to pull off a feat that even Donna Summer didn't totally master on her last album — bringing disco into the eighties.

Sylvester makes it all work with the help of Wirick, who has wrapped some Rick James' funk-rock sound around the soulful vocalizing of San Francisco's queen of soul.

The album features Syl-

mirrors certain aspects of David Bowie's Scary Monsters, mixing traditional Japanese music with computer technology and American instrumentation to produce a pleasing space-age pastoral sound.

Sakamoto, a member of Yellow Magic Orchestra, has created a sensitive, but not flawless, piece of music that combines the minimalist sounds of Japanese music with the technological orchestration of progressive Western music.

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TALES OF TESSI TURA

Who Was That Masked Woman?

GEORGE HEYMONT

How easily a costume stimulates our fantasies. A mask, a veil, a trace of mystery and our pulse quickens in anticipation of new frontiers of love and sensuality. Alas, what appears to be the national endowment when seen through a glory hole darkly often palls with the shock of recognition. Stripping away the disguise, unmasking the object of desire sometimes leads to astonishing repercussions (especially when one's spouse appears from hiding). Revenge, humiliation and second thoughts about one's supposed domestic bliss crowd the mind — especially when both suspect and the suspicious are equally guilty.

Many masks are donned and removed in the operatic repertory for the sake of advancing the plot. A mask or veil allows someone to spy on an arch-rival or philandering mate. When fidelity (rather than political gain) is at stake, virtue rarely triumphs over all.

MASKED BALLS

Darkness might heighten the intrigue, but in the case of San Diego Opera's production of *Un Ballo in Maschera* it served to obfuscate the proceedings, instead. The cast was often kept incognito as a result of shoddy lighting plots which forced the principals into total darkness at crucial moments in the score. A combination of bad computer timing and a crippling dependency on side lighting severely undermined a production which was musically on rather solid ground.

Making his American debut as Riccardo was Dutch tenor Adriaan van Limpt, who bears an uncanny vocal and physical resemblance to the late Richard Tucker. A veteran singer abroad, van Limpt brought an old-fashioned sense of basics to Verdi's opera. His blunt histrionics were softly overwhelmed by Josephine Barstow's poignant Amelia (etched by a singing actress whose total dramatic commitment to a role compensates for those moments when she cannot cut through the orchestral din). Janice Hall's Oscar and Cornelius Ophofos Renato rounded out an unusually firm cast.

What did not work, however, was some of Michael

Rennison's twisted directorial concepts (which included excessive dancing in Act I). Rennison was also crippled by a bizarre set for Ulrica's big scene. Some of his dramatic touches made no sense, whatsoever. It seems unlikely that a horde of guests would make their entrance to Ulrica's outpost by descending from the second floor of an abandoned mansion (they didn't have furnished basements in those days). Nor does it seem likely for Ulrica to embrace Amelia at the end of the opera as a kind of long-lost Miss Havisham mother figure. These effects often made one cringe in disbelief; hardly a desirable audience reaction.

Good news, however, was the conducting debut of young Stephen Stein, a graduate of San Diego's Young American Opera Conductors Program and a major talent. At 24 years of age he shows remarkable control of the orchestra. His conducting evidences a clear, incisive vision of what he wants and the ability to get it from the pit musicians and the singers. Keep an eye on him.

MASKED FACES

While Amelia remains hidden under a veil to rendezvous with her lover, Rosalinda must don a mask to see her husband in action with

CABARET CORNUCOPIA

A Welcome Return

JOHN F. KARR

I don't know where they came from, but I was crestfallen when they went back there. In the several months they spent in San Francisco last year, Tuck and Patti developed a horde of fans. Not only is their musicianship a connoisseur's delight, but their act in toto is simply unique. I haven't seen or heard anyone else who does what they do. Tuck, a willow of man, sings and accompanies the amplitudinous Patti with his 12-string guitar. That is all the accompaniment she gets, too, but Tuck's amazing fingers create an orchestra of sound for her. Patti's voice has many hues and moods, and the duo's music can be Broadway slick, Southern fried and homey, or — best of all — bewildering with jazzy filigree.

With their roots in Les Paul and Mary Ford, and their contemporary fingers stuck in as many musical pies as possible, Tuck and Patti are a source of wonder and sweet diversion. They're back in town, this week only, with an engagement that concludes Sunday, December 19, at the

Plush Room.
★ ★ ★
Other favored billings include:



Samantha Samuels perched on the piano and snared the crowd's rapt attention. Sam appears weekends in PIAF . . . NO REGRETS and at Trinity Place on Monday 29. (Photo: T. Loewe)

other women. The event, of course, is Prince Orlofsky's ball where each is entitled to behave as one wishes. (Chacun a son gout). Cheating husbands, jealous wives and a host of other disguises keep Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* fresh and sparkling with merriment no matter how many times one has seen the opera.

This summer the Santa Fe Opera mounted a production which started with incredible strength and then proceeded to dissipate in energy. The first act was galvanized by Barry McCauley's overly zealous Alfred — so energetic that it almost felt as if McCauley were in a different world. Gianna Rolandi's strong Adele was a sturdy foil to Alan Titus' polished Eisenstein. Richard Stilwell's Dr. Falke was surprisingly bland. Victoria Vergara's Orlovsky was adequate but without much spark.

My main interest in seeing *Fledermaus* was Mary Jane Johnson's Rosalinda. Miss Johnson has been getting a lot of attention lately and her talents are strong, indeed. She has a delightful stage presence and plenty of vocal strength. If only Lou Galterio's direction had given his principals more to work with, perhaps they wouldn't have resorted to excessive camping. Peter Anastos' dismal choreography did not aid matters at all.

As masks began to drop toward the end of *Fledermaus* and everyone's true identity was revealed one couldn't help but feel the de-cleration onstage in dramatic tension. With so many different energies pulling in opposite directions (especially Edgar Daniels' blustering Frosch) the production began to come apart at the seams. Despite all the toasts to King Champagne it was obvious that by dawn's early light the cast of *Fledermaus* could not walk a straight line. It all seemed so enchanting at the first hint of deception in Act I. By the time Eisenstein's marriage was patched up one couldn't help but wish the deceit had lasted forever. It was so much better incognito. ■

Samantha Samuels at Trinity Place, Monday 20 through Thursday 23, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.;

Gail Wilson at Fanny's each Saturday night in December; and, of course, **Bette Midler's** one-week stand at the Golden Gate. Try and get a ticket to that if you can. For many Gay men that theatre will be Mecca for a week. ■

BOOK RACK

Book Reviews by Frank J. Howell

Biography as Camp

Perfect Holiday Ticket

The Gay Book of Days

By Martin Greif

Lyle Stuart - \$17.95

(Foreword by Samuel M. Steward)

"The cosmic joke, of course, is that whatever our other accomplishments — art, music, literature, architecture, science — we're all of us most human when scratching our privates. Leonardo, Beethoven, and Marie Antoinette scratched theirs, just as you and I scratch ours. In satisfying the universal itch, the great are no different from the humble. For this reason, many of the famous personalities... are seen at their most human when in love or in hot pursuit of love — hence, at their silliest. If this be considered irreverent, a trivialization of the great, so be it."

The holidays are approaching once more and we're all digging around for that perfect holiday gift. *The Gay Book of Days* may be just the ticket for a friend or that special person.

Martin Greif, a former professor of English literature has written books on architecture and design and has given us the *Gay Engagement Calendar* every year since 1976.

Bessie Smith - Dear Bessie bedded down with many members of her own sex but sang, "There's two things go me puzzled, there's two things I don't understand./That's a manly-actin' woman, and a skippin', twistin', woman-actin' man."

John Rechy - A perceptive transvestite once told him, "Your muscles are as gay as my drag."

The Gay Book of Days is a treasure trove of titillating trivia, galloping gossip, delicious innuendo and hardcore fact.

The mad twinkle in his eye is brighter than ever as he now presents 360 black and white photos set off with captivating captions about the private lives of the Gay, near Gay, and those we're not sure about.

Here we find a notable person for each day of the year, along with what we assume is the inside information. A master index and a bibliography are included.

A brief sampling is always a delight.



The giddy fellow on the left is King Edward II. His friend is Piers Gaveston. They're just one set of historical figures who cavort in the pages of "The Gay Book of Days."

why stars were "Farming": "Don't inquire of Georgie Raft/Why his cow had never calved;/Georgie's bull is beautiful, but he's Gay!"

Greif is sometimes a bit subjective in his comments, but never dull. We must perhaps read between the lines at times.

There are a vast number of historic figures packed into this racy memorial to the past. Even Winston Churchill is here. But on the final page Greif pulls his punches and lists only initials such as "C.G. — American actor."

Don't miss out on the fun. Your friends must be dying to find out about Churchill! ■



David Bowie is included, too. Don't you remember the press conference he gave from a milk-filled bathtub?

Don We Now...

The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps ends 1982 on an up note with a holiday concert, *Don We Now...* on Tuesday, December 21 at 8 PM at the Victoria Theatre, 2961-16th Street. The program includes "The Nutcracker Suite" and seasonal favorites such as Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" and Irving Berlin's "White Christmas." A special appearance

by the S.F. Tap Troupe will be a highlight. Tickets are \$5, available at Headlines or at the door. ■

Words & Music

Avotja and Terry Garthwaite bring their music and poetry to the Valencia Rose Cafe, 766 Valencia, on Friday, December 17 at 9 PM. Cover is \$4. Info: 552-1445.

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STAGE

Glass Becomes A Gem

by Mark Topkin

The Glass Menagerie was Tennessee Williams' first major success as a playwright. Its Broadway opening in March of 1945 brought shouts of "Author! Author!" from the audience. Nearly 37 years later, the play remains a timeless, ageless, poetic gem which has received a gorgeous production by the Berkeley Repertory Theatre.

Williams' sensitive story of

the Wingfield family trapped, contrary to their airy name, to a confined life in a St. Louis tenement, is clearly autobiographical. Tom the dreamer-poet (Thomas is Tennessee's real name) yearns to escape his tedious warehouse job and the clutches of his ever-nagging, overbearing mother, Amanda. He would leave her in an instant, as his father did sixteen years before, if not for his crippled, childlike sister, Laura, who would have no means of support.



Kimberly King (left) is the fragile Laura and Joy Carlin her fancifully deluded and homebound mother Amanda in Berkeley Rep's fine revival of *The Glass Menagerie*. (Photo: K. Friedman)

Recycling Style

by Steve Warren

Bernard Slade's Romantic Comedy wears its theatrical heart on its sleeve, as if talking about Private Lives and The Philadelphia Story could put this play in their league. The play-

wright who's the central character recalls the old days: "You had a boy, you had a girl, it took you three acts to dream them into bed together."

That the plot. On the day he weds a slightly snobbish



Laurel Ollstein and Cully Fredricksen get together in *ROMANTIC COMEDY*, the play that's "like Noel Coward meeting Agnes Gooch."

Comedians

Missionary Position With Laughs

by Scott Treimel

My favorite definition of "comedian" is Sid Caesar's: he takes the

truth and puts a curlicue at the end. That fairly expresses the view of Eddie Waters, who teaches stand-up (Continued on Page 35)

Director Michael W. Leibert has chosen wisely to make Tom the central focus of the play and to downplay the often flamboyantly portrayed Amanda. Adding a sympathetic quality to the woman desperately clinging to a facade of aristocracy in the midst of poverty intensifies Tom's psychological struggle to break away from her and adds a richer dynamic clarity to the family situation.

Joy Carlin's Amanda is at first jarring to anyone with expectations of flamboyance from her character, but her interpretation is integral to the balance of family power. At Amanda and Tom's first major confrontation, we see a chillingly real struggle between mother and son and know how accurate Carlin's Amanda is for this production.

Charles Dean is superb as Tom, delivering Williams' poetic monologues with beauty and sincerity. He held the audience in breathless silence during his closing speech.

Kimberly King plays the delicate, emotionally disturbed Laura with a quiet desperation, fragile as her collection of tiny glass animals who are her only companions. Tony Amendola as the Gentleman Caller whom Tom brings home for his sister rounds out the quartet with another strong performance.

This production of *A Glass Menagerie* is testimony to Tennessee Williams' genius as well as to Berkeley Rep's growing reputation as the finest company in the Bay Area. It is a moving, very special evening of theatre. San Francisco residents should not be put off by the theatre's Berkeley address — it's a convenient half-block from the Berkeley BART station.

The Glass Menagerie
Berkeley Repertory Theatre
Thru Jan. 9; 845-4700

socialite who later goes into politics ("I married Grace Kelly and ended up with Bella Abzug"), Jason also acquires Phoebe, a new writing partner ("Collaboration has all the disadvantages of marriage and none of the advantages"). It's like Noel Coward meeting "Agnes Gooch," or at least Gilda Radner, but it's also love at first sight. Various attachments keep them apart for more than a decade, or until the third act.

Slade's script could use more of both romance and comedy, but it works well enough to elicit an audience's conditioned response of wanting the couple to get together. Laurel Ollstein is totally delightful as Phoebe, Cully Fredricksen less so as Jason. Richard Arnold and Nancy Palmer Jones make their romantic alternatives less distasteful than they generally are in this sort of thing.

An unusual choice to make the One Act Theatre Company depart from their norm, *Romantic Comedy* is the sort of lightweight commercial fare staged by dinner theatres in cities that have them. For the record, Tony Perkins and Mia Farrow did the play on Broadway in 1979-80; Dudley Moore and Mary Steenburgen have filmed it for release next year.

Romantic Comedy
One Act Theatre Company
Thru Jan. 2; 421-6161

FILM CLIPS

Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean

More Choice
Than Sophie
by Steve Warren

When Freud said there are no accidents he may have been looking ahead to Mel Novikoff's simultaneous booking at two of his theaters of George Stevens' *Giant* (Castro, Dec. 22) and Robert Altman's *Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*. The Altman film, from a play by Ed Graczyk, is about a 20-year reunion of the James Dean fan club in a small Texas town 62 miles from where *Giant* was filmed.

The story is told *Boys in the Band* fashion, with the first half devoted to assembling and introducing the characters and the second to revealing their innermost secrets as painfully as possible.



The multitude of laughs in . . . JIMMY DEAN. JIMMY DEAN are followed by "a pain we've inherited if not experienced." Avenging angel Karen Black (left) confronts Cher and Sudie Bond in the backwoods Woolworth's where the group has a reunion after 20 years.

It's about living a lie long enough to make it true, and about the options that were available in the 50's to a boy who was — or thought he was — the only queer in town.

That's not much of a synopsis, but I think other critics have given away too much of the plot. Don't let an excess of information keep you from seeing the movie — I cried all the way through it from fore-knowledge of things that people

the mirror of the Woolworth's where the story takes place.

In her trademarked style Sandy Dennis plays Mona, president of the "Disciples of James Dean" fan club and the only club member who got to be an extra in *Giant*. She subsequently pulled off the closest thing to an immaculate conception story that's been heard in the 20th century.

Sissy, the town tramp best known for her breasts, is

sionate foundation for Meryl Streep to prove that she is one of our greatest actresses with her entrancing, emotionally devastating portrayal of the title role.

An Auschwitz survivor, Sophie is desperately and passionately in love with



Sandy Dennis, who claims to be the mother of James Dean's child in *JIMMY DEAN, JIMMY DEAN*

played by Cher (remember when we could only tell her apart from Sonny because she was taller and had a deeper voice?), who proves to be a surprisingly good actress.

Karen Black is an "avenging angel" who comes back to be the conscience of the town, a catharsis more refreshing than the rain they haven't had in 20 years.

Mark Patton plays Joe, the only boy in the club (and he was really "one of the girls"). What happens to him should fill us all with a pain we've inherited if not experienced. The 50's attitude is perfectly captured by one character who says, "He is a sick boy and should be treated before he grows into a communist!"

Sudie Bond, Kathy Bates, and Marta Helin contribute strongly to the ensemble quality of the overall production.

The earlier version of the play was far less subtle than the one transferred to the screen. Most of the changes are for the better, but I fear that one vital link may have been lost, the idea that a failed, desperate quest for validation resulted in a kind of murder.

If there's anything you don't understand about *Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*, I'll be glad to explain it to you. But see it! It's my pick of the holiday movies — I even choose it over *Sophie*.

(Surf)

Sophie's Choice

Steeped in Streep

by Michael Lasky

Faithfully adapted from William Styron's haunting, evocative bestseller, *Sophie's Choice* provides a compas-



Although a visit to a funhouse is a moment's diversion, *SOPHIE'S CHOICE* brings a tragic fate to the lovers played by Kevin Kline and Meryl Streep, while author-to-be Peter MacNicol records it all.

Nathan, a Brooklyn Jew, a demon-plagued man who can be charmingly captivating one moment and enraged in insane paranoia the next. Kevin Kline plays Nathan with vitality but lacks the last convincing touch. Nathan's obsessions as well as Sophie's secrets about her past life of horror are catalogued by Peter MacNicol, a would-be novelist who has come from the South to make it on his own in the Big City. It's from his inexperienced eyes that we share the wondrous relationship between Sophie, Nathan and himself.

As directed — and written for the screen — by Alan J. Pakula *Sophie's Choice* is meticulous and loving in its character study. The film sidesteps the visual horrors of Nazidom, but combined with the psychological belt it packs, is disturbing, harrowing, and remarkably astute in its observation of human behavior. What captures our hearts most, though, is Streep's harrowing portrait of a woman who has escaped from tragedy, yet is doomed to it as well.

(Regency III)

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Come Back to the 5&Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean

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—Gary Arnold, *Washington Post*

"The best performance she has given on screen."
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Come Back to the 5&Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean

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FILM CLIPS

The Verdict

Mixed

The only cases coming the way of disillusioned, ambulance-chasing Boston lawyer Paul Newman are filled with liquor. In the three years since his reputation was ruined with a set-up conviction of jury tampering, he hasn't won a case. Now he has a chance at redemption with a solid malpractice case against two top doctors and the church-run hospital where a pregnant woman has been reduced to a machine-run vegetable.

No matter how strong the case in his client's favor, it must be tried against the sly and savvy James Mason. He commands a huge staff and has all the power of the Church behind him.



Paul Newman, aging with handsome grace in *THE VERDICT*.

Running well over two hours, *The Verdict* (directed by Sidney Lumet) seems — especially in the beginning — to be as drawn out as a legal brief. Newman's bravura acting propels us and Mason's menacing manipulation of the law amazes us. Together the two make enough fireworks that by the last half we are gripped by a nail-biting courtroom trial.

There are many twists along the way, including the surprising manner in which Mason comes to know all of Newman's secrets, which provides some of the sizzle in this savage doctor/lawyer indictment.

(Metro)

★ ★ ★

Airplane II:

The Sequel

Plane of Thought

Surely, there's no way that *Airplane II* can get us to laugh as often as its predecessor, which caught us off-guard with its zany and irreverent nonstop string of sight gags and parodies? And surely, nobody calls you Shirley?

The surprise is that *Airplane II* is loaded with a rapid machine gun fire blitz of sight gags (my favorite is the *Rocky XXXVIII* poster) and blatant burlesque jokes that keep us guffawing. If the laughter is not quite as continuous as the first time around, that's only because we know what to expect by now.

Still, the yoks come fast and furious, with no let up, sheer overkill tickling us more than any single hit of humor.

The craft is the first lunar

shuttle to leave from a commercial airport and, naturally, it's doomed from the start. William Shatner and Lloyd Bridges get it back safely when the crew is sucked off... the plane... by Hal the computer while the Captain (Peter Graves) is overcome with perversity — or is it adversity? Whatever, stay through the final credits which have some more laughs in TV's *Laugh In* style.

(Royal)

★ ★ ★

Piaf,

The Early Years

Music 10 Film 3

In the hands of director Guy Casaril, Edith Piaf's tumultuous, formative years amid the pimps, hookers and lost souls on the streets of Paris and in the clutches of a string of abusive men becomes a sometimes shrill, often confused melodrama.

Fortunately Brigitte Ariell is so glowing and perfectly cast as Edith and Pascale Christophe so equally engaging as her protective yet dependent sister than any faults of the director are transcended. These are performances we enjoy watching. The original recordings of Piaf have been employed as well as some dubbing by Metty Mars. This is so meticulous that one wonders "is it Memorex or is it Piaf?"

Filmed on location, this French language, English subtitled film ends with Piaf's



Brigitte Ariell as Edith Piaf

first triumph as a professional singer. This is not so fair to the audience which has suffered with Edith for 100 minutes as she paid her dues and now can't enjoy her im-

pending glory. Nevertheless, *Piaf, The Early Years* has its moments. And there is always the music — the haunting, plaintive music of the legendary Piaf.

(Vogue)

★ ★ ★

Honkytonk Man

Horse Op'ry

You wanna know just how versatile Clint Eastwood really is? You probably thought he was just a lousy actor. Now way. *Honkytonk Man* proves that he's also a lousy director and dreadful singer, too. It's a vanity production (he's the producer also — who else would hire him to direct and sing?) that drags along for over two hours as Depression time troubadour Eastwood heads from the midwest Dust Bowl with his nephew Kyle Eastwood (Clint's son — it's a nepotism production as well) to the Gran' Ol' Opry in Nashville.

The hook is that Eastwood is slowly dying of TB (unlike the film, which is stillborn). The only life in the film is a five minute spot as Linda Hopkins belts out some blues. Otherwise, it's a long road as we ask, "TB or not TB?"

★ ★ ★

The Toy

Batteries Not Included

Out of work writer Richard Pryor has his dignity but also needs a job real baaad. Bigot tycoon Jackie Gleason runs most of Louisiana and purchases Pryor — giftwrapped, of course — for his seemingly unmanageable, but actually love-starved son, Scott Schwartz.

Based on a much more intelligent and witty French film of the same name by *La Cage Aux Folles* creator Francis Veber, *The Toy* as directed by Richard Donner aims for the obvious and coarse and slapsticks its way through the same theme: how low people will stoop for money but how money can't buy love.

Although this is Pryor's film, the soggy plug-at-your-heartstrings script undermines him, Gleason seems remotely embalmed as young Schwartz and Pryor battle it out with food and insults in a series of setups to allow Pryor to do his expected schtick. For those unfortunate enough not to have seen the original, this *Toy* may suffice, but it plays out its predictable plot with no pretense or excuse for wit.

(Ghirardelli Square)



Jackie Gleason borrows his son's "toy," and Richard Pryor finds himself in drag as a maid in *THE TOY*, a bit of a drag itself.

SPORTS SECTION

TG WEDNESDAY NBL

Born to Bowl

JERRY R. DE YOUNG

During my infancy, both my parents were pin-setters at the local bowling alley. They used to bring me to work with them in an old bowling ball bag. Because they couldn't afford a sitter. It was during this time that I began to identify with the bowling balls among whom my Mother would place me while she pin-set her twelve alleys, my father handling the other twelve.

Oh, how I used to laugh when one of them was a bit slow getting out of the alley after setting the pins and would get wiped out by a devastating strike. This didn't happen often though for they were professionals, frequently resetting the pins with the ball half-way down the alley, managing to sustain only minor bruises on the bottom-side while existing. (Regrettably, the new automatic pin-setters have taken this fun aspect out of bowling.)

It was not until I had outgrown my bowling ball bag that I discovered, much to my dismay, that I was different than the other bowling balls...

I didn't have the three finger holes, at least not in the right places.

It took years of therapy for me to finally accept the notion that I should throw a bowling ball and not be thrown. Although, to this day, I still enjoy an occasional evening hunched-up among the house balls on the rack, and you can just guess what my bed resembles.

Enough about my origins in the fast lane; let's take a look at who's doing what in the TGWNBL.

This season, no one has bowled a 200+ game every night. Keith Ray of the Badlands, however, has a spendid ratio of 8 out of 10 nights.

On 12/8, these distinguished competitors placed their marks in our annals by surpassing the mere temporal and hovering among the lofty 200+ peaks for a spell.

Art Toth (P-I)	237
David Hobler (P.B.)	226
Tim Hagerman (Dif. Stks.)	224
Ken Sexton (Bldns.)	221
Ray Padua (P.W.I.L.)	214

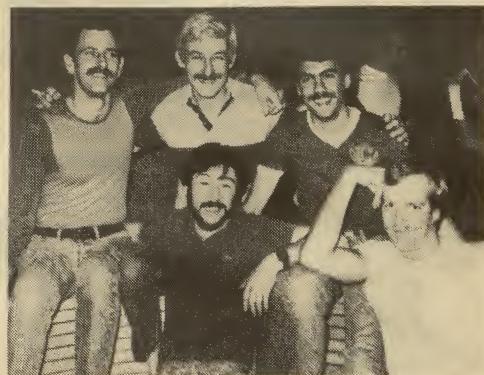
Darrell Thomas (P.W.I.L.)	210
Adrian Stenson (P.W.I.L.)	208
Pat Conlon (P.I.)	205
Les Gundel (W.H.)	203
Pat Moore (S.I.)	201
David Bieda (Ambush)	200

The *creme de la creme* de la TGWNBL.

Before entering the holidays, here are the four highest averages in our league. We should all be proud of them: Aubrey Palmer of the Wooden Horse, 192; Keith Ray of the Badlands, 186; tied with Will Ward of the Wooden Horse, 186; Andres Colon of the Park Bowl, 185; and Adrian Stenson of the Play With It, Ltd., 182. That is power with a capital POW!

Finally, here are the team standing as of the 8th. The next listing will be after the Xmas holidays, so be sure to file this one.

	W	L
1. Play With It, Ltd.	27	9
2. Badlands	24	12
3. Wooden Horse	22	14
4. Pin Pals	22	14
5. Grady's	21	15
6. Pilsner I	20	16



The Pilsner III team of the Wednesday Night Tavern Guild Bowling League.

7. Sweet Inspirations	20	16	18. Pilsner 3	15	21
8. Pendulum	20	16	19. Ambush	14	22
9. Different Strokes	20	16	20. Pipeline	13	23
10. Pilsner II	18	18	21. Stagecoach	13	23
11. S.F. Eagle	18	18	22. Animals	10	26
12. D.K.'s Unmnables	17½	18½			
13. Park Bowl	17	19			
14. White Swallow	17	19			
15. Atherton Hotel	16½	19½			
16. Temptations	16	20			
17. Pilsner Playmates	15	21			

Everyone have an extraordinarily happy holiday season, and we will resume the Winter bowling season on January 5, 1983 at Park Bowl at 8:30 PM. ■

I.G.B.O. — A Growing Giant

by Jerry R. De Young

Since 1980 when, in Los Angeles, the idea of an International Gay Bowling Organization first germinated in the fertile minds of 6 members of The Gay Softball Championships, this mere supposition has, in only two years, expanded far beyond the speculations of its most ardent supporters and established itself as an awesome fact within the Bowling World.

In 1981, the first I.G.B.O. tournament was held in Houston; in 1982, the second took place in Dallas; in 1982, the third will happen in Chicago; 1984?

Here is a slight sampling of the various constituents that combine to form this incredibly energetic organization: Baltimore, 8 teams (small but loud); Chicago, 56 teams; Houston, 64 teams; Long Beach, 36 teams; Milwaukee, 80 teams signed up for HIT; New York City, exact number unknown; San Francisco, 22 teams; Seattle, remember the 1982 Blue Boy Classic?; Toronto, 32 (6 person) teams; and Twin Cities, 56 teams (Sunday League has 24 more teams).

This is by no means a complete member-city list. It's just a random selection. But you get the idea, I'm sure... it's called success.

In addition to their local league tournaments, many of these fabulous confederations either host International Tournaments or are in the process of formulating one, with trophies, cash prizes, and all the trimmings.

For your 1982-83 sports calendar, here is a listing of the Gay Bowling Events taking place around the country (surely you can win one of them).

Apr. 1: 3rd Dixie Classic, Atlanta, GA.
May 27: 3rd I.G.B.O. Tournament, Chicago, IL.
Jul. 1: 3rd Blue Boy Classic, Seattle, WA.
Sept. 2: 2nd Paul Bunyan Classic, Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN.

A Growing Giant

Individuals and teams are equally encouraged to participate in the above exciting bowling events.

For additional information on the I.G.B.O. Tournament, or any of the above listed events, please contact: John Hammett, President IGO, 1964 Rodney Dr. #304, Los Angeles, CA 90027; or Dan Donovan, Vice-President

Frontrunners

The Sunday Fun Run for December 19 will cover four rolling miles from the Arguello Gate through the Presidio. Joggers should meet at the Gate at Arguello and Jackson at 10 AM. ■

Bicycle Joy

Different Spokes, the Gay bicycle club open to any interested cyclists, has scheduled a moderately difficult Alpine Reservoir ride, via Fairfax, on Sunday, December 19. Meet at McLaren Lodge in GG Park at 8 AM. Info: Tim, 863-7056. An alternative Decide and Ride meets at the Lodge at 11 AM. ■

IGBO, 3606 12th Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55407; or David Theiss, Secretary/Treasurer IGBO, 1126 E. Kane Place, Milwaukee, WI 53204.

If I don't see you at the CHIT, HIT, DC, IGBO, BBC or PBC maybe we'll meet on the lanes of our own PB on Haight Street. Till then, stay behind the foul-line and keep you resin bag dry. ■

Play Soccer

Wanted: soccer players for league play.

The men's soccer team, after victory in the Gay Games, is staying together and competing in a league in Marin. They need players.

As soccer is a team sport, commitment is more important than talent. Playing experience is always welcome, of course, but needed are people who are ready to show up for practices and wake up on game days rested and hearty.

For practice places and times, or any information, call Charlie at 821-6774. Good times ahead! ■



The local men's soccer team approaching victory at the Gay Games. ■

Sisterly Show

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Xmas-Rated Holiday Special, a seasonal radio program of outrageous humor, airs on KPFA-FM, 94.1 FM, Wednesday, December 22 from 10-11 PM. Featured are the satirical liberation lyrics of The Choral Majority and Robin Tyler's comic monologue on the birth of Baby Jesus. James Broughton contributes moments of reflective wonder with his recitation of two lyrical narratives; and The Men About Town assist the Sisters with their musical chores.

BOB'S BAZAAR DEC. 16, 1982 PAGE 31

CABARET TIMES: 5:30 to 8:30 P.M.

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Sharon McNight
Monday, Dec. 27
Tuesday, Dec. 28
Wednesday, Dec. 29
Thursday, Dec. 30
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New York Native.
\$3 cover



Samantha Samuels... "Sam"
Monday, Dec. 20
Tuesday, Dec. 21
Wednesday, Dec. 22
Thursday, Dec. 23
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MY KNIGHTS IN LEATHER

Something on Everyone

KARL STEWART

PARTY KNIGHTS

It certainly is the season... the calendar is filling up fast. This week saw some great times. Castro Station held their annual Christmas bash. Sr. Bernadet Pacifica, Sr. Missionary Position and I gate crashed to find a festive crowd. Ritch Dryden played leather Santa and had a lotta little boys sitting on his lap... and what's this about David Bandy's Conceptual Entertainment taking over the Old Hamm's Loft from Joe's Shows? Randy Schiller tells me they were swinging from the rafters with a big opening bash. It's quite a perch.

Reunions seem to be in fashion this month. We had two this week alone. The Balcony Reunion at The Stables was a real gas. Dennis Yount says, "It was hot, friendly and sleazy, just like the old days at the Bal-ony. Fun." And just yesterday Paul Joseph led his rowdies from Beach Blanket Babylon to a Galà at Oasis. Doris Fish and The Sluts did a spoof called *Screamgirls* for the convivial group, all in celebration of Toad Hall.

Speaking of toads... rabbit. The handsome, but straight owner of Hot and Hunky (our favorite hamburger joint on 18th St.) was caught in the back room with another woman! His wife, who owns the flower shop next door, dragged him out into the

street kicking and screaming and fighting. The Gay man living upstairs leaned out of the window with nightcap in hand and shouted, "This used to be a decent neighborhood before you straights moved in!"

There are a group of folks living in our Gay neighborhoods whom some of us would like to help. The Senior Citizens find it pretty tough, just getting by on SSI these days. Paul Estes of Alfie's and hot Steve Grosvenor are doing something about it. Sunday 12/19 5 PM to midnight you can bring a can or two of non-perishable food to Alfie's or donate \$3. The Party will be filled with surprises and music. Stop by and help out the old folks... you'll be one yourself some day.

We celebrated the life of Patrick Cowley and his music last week at an extraordinarily moving service at the Castro MCC. Lotsa gospel and lotsa tears. It's fitting that Patrick's last album *MindWarp* is doing so well on the charts. My thanks to David and George of TOP 25 for arranging on one stage this historic meeting of some of the best in the music biz.

A TINKER'S DAMN

Old Saint Nick is alive and well and living on Sixth Street. At the Trading Post

that is. In his new place ol' Nick is doing well and can supply you with lotsa gift ideas. He's located between Folsom and Harrison. Tell the old coot I sent ya (he'll probably throw you out!).

Another Gifty for His stocking is a Membership at Shape Up on Market at Noe. Jim Shirtliff is putting in more nautilus equipment than any other Gym on the street. It's a co-ed system too.

Or how about some nice custom Leather from Mr. S Products on Seventh St.? You can also pick up those last minute trinkets at the night shop in the Eagle.

In our who's doing what to whom or worse file... Skip, that hunky little Febe's B'tender with the big dick, has other talents. He's a member of The Gwen Miller Brass who play for the SF Tap Troupe's show at Victoria Theater. We caught 'em on Hibernia Beach last weekend, doing carols. Then we skipped up to Skip's nest for a birthday party for Skip's equally hunky lover Walt. You can see them both (Skip, his trumpet and his basket) at Febe's Christmas Party on the 20th.

Gary K. is bringing out a new video game called OTT. Scheduled release is April 30th '83.

Congratulations to The CMC. They presented more than \$2500 to the KS Foundation and The Gay Men's Chorus last week at their open meeting at The Stables.

What were Lou Green and Whirlpool Hattie doing in Febe's Head with the door locked?

Drummer has come out with its new Drummer Daddies special issue, looking hot, if not somewhat familiar.

Daddies? Did someone mention Daddies? Jay B. had a smart cocktail party for the MC daddies and their boys. Sexy little Garret Collins made mouths water as he tended the bar.

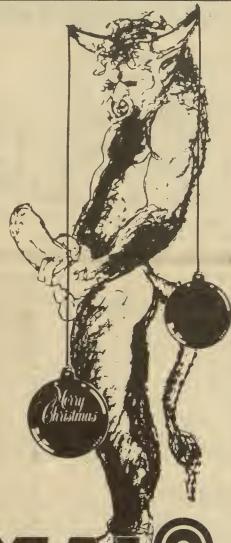
Joe's Shows will premier Sylvester's new album "All I Need" at All I Need for Christmas at the Harrison St. Theater on December 18 starting at 10:30 PM. Sterling Stallion Steve Fabus will be spinning the discs, and Sylvester will appear live.

Some people are making resolutions already... especially David Bandy and Conceptual Entertainment. Their New Year's Eve send up will be at the Galleria and features Thelma Houston. Tickets are \$35, advance only. The price includes a huge laser display and sound by Randy Schiller.

KNIGHT MARES

The knights honored one of the community's most noble fellows Sunday at the Eagle. Frank Benoit is afflicted with a form of cancer which deteriorates the muscle system from within. We got together and threw the little fucker a Roast/Benefit. In spite of the rain (we got under JC's version of a Reagan trash bag tent city) we roast-

(Continued on next page)



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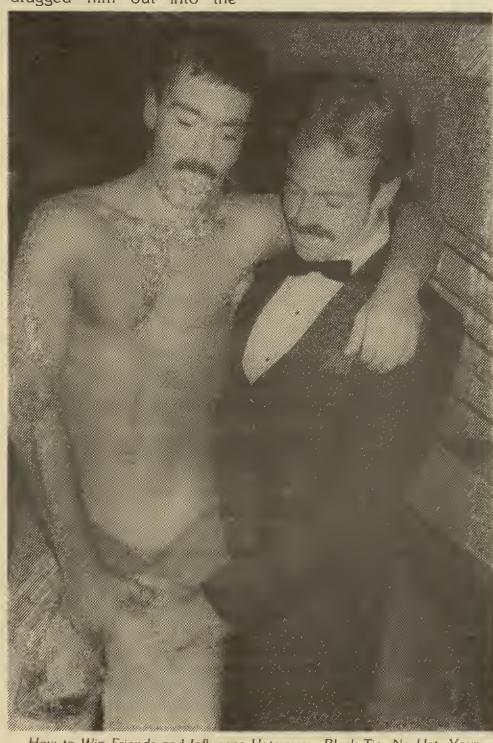
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How to Win Friends and Influence Voters, or, Black Tie, No Hat, Your Tail: Even though this contestant in the last Manifest Man contest put the voter's hands on the crux of the matter, he didn't win. He'll have to try harder next time. (Photo: R. Pruzan)



There are a million stories in the big city. Here are two of them, with an intertwined plot. A South of Market slice of life. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

KNIGHTS

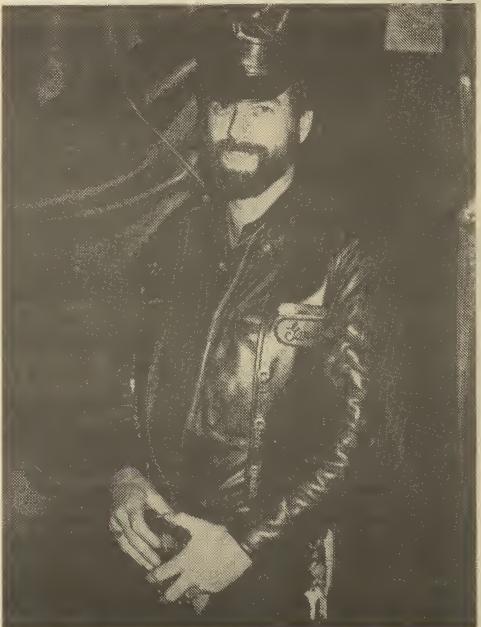
(Continued from previous page)

ed, camped and carried on. Frank, I'm afraid, did most of the roasting. He's got something on everyone. The crowd was quite fun... Sweet Lips had a wonderful time, but I'll bet he doesn't remember much of it. The GG Troopers, sporting beautiful new patches, led the contributors with donations of a huge BBQ and silver serving pieces to an auction conducted by jocular Bob Ross. As the wind and rain created a dramatic back drop, we saw music and merriment from Connie, who took time out from a very busy schedule to donate her time. Connie and Michael Hopper are running for Emperor/Empress crowns.

As Stella auctioned off a picture of JC with hair, he told me he's getting back together with his best ex, Bill. The only question is which color wash and wear wedding

dress will he wear? The FLU held down the Door and we saw a furry Guy Healy from the Pilsner, as well as Jeff from the Stables. Folks from all over the City came by to pay Frank tribute. The Crowning moment was when The Michael Gill Dancers re-created "The 4 Carmens" and Jo and Ross announced that the funds raised will go toward Frank's first trip home to see his sister in 20 years, followed by a couple of weeks in New Orleans. It was quite moving.

The Eagle festivity was followed by a frolic thru Larices house with the SFGDI's. Their annual Christmas party is very special to them as the club heals and pulls together for a new era of cooperation. Larry Kenny, their corresponding secretary, confessed to a trip to the new Academy on Market on their opening night. Said he, "It's a hot, clean and modern version of the 1808. It was very crowded and quite active. But I think we need to get it



Wad Raiser. Past Forum president Gary Kenyon was in charge of the fundraiser which netted a large amount for Frank Benoit at the S.F. Eagle last weekend. (Photo: Rink)

greasy to give it some character." The men at the Academy will honor all private club memberships for the month of December — so you can check it out cheap.

Have a safe and savory week before Christmas. See ya in the skins. ■

Karl Stewart

Karl's Calendar

Thursday 12/16. Can You Cum. Bearded men's Ball (clean shavers welcome), by Jim Miller at Animals. Members \$8, Non \$12. 9 PM, punch served.

Friday 12/17. For The Time Being. A Christmas Oratorio by W.H. Auden at 544 Natoma, 8 PM, \$5, featuring the Noh Oratorio Society, this weekend only.

Annual Christmas Party, The Troc, 10 PM-dawn. **Stables Christmas Party,** 8 PM.

Saturday 12/18 All I Need For Christmas. Joe's Shows presents a disco dance with Sylvester, 10:30 til dawn; Harrison St. Theater (715), \$12 adv, \$15 dr.

Sunday 12/19 The Spirit of Giving. Seniors food drive and Party at Alfie's, 5 PM til midnight. \$3 or donation of non-perishable foods.

SF Gay Band Concert. S.F. Eagle Patio, \$5 Donation. KS Benefit, 3-6 PM, beer bust.

Toys for Tots. The Watering Hole, toys get a free drink, 5-8 PM.

Monday 12/20 Febe's Christmas Party, 9 PM w/Gwen Miller Brass.

Piaf: No Regrets. Samantha Samuels at The Woods, Guerneville, \$5. 8 PM. **Winter Solstice Party.** The Cauldron, 9 PM-4 AM, free to members, refreshments.

Tuesday 12/21 Michael Hopper. Candidate Party, Trax on Haight St. 7-9 PM.

Wednesday 12/22. Kissinger's Birthday. (Febe's Owner) Febe's, 9 PM. **BC's Joe and Vinnie 5th Anniversary.** The Starlight Room, 7-10 PM.

All Candidate Night. SoM Emperor and Empress candidates at the Oasis, 7:30 PM and the SF Eagle, 8 PM.

Religious Art. The Stables, Reception 8-11 PM.

Thursday 12/23. Oil Paintings. Dick Wheeler, The Ambush, 5:30-8 PM. **Hothouse Members Party.** 8 PM.

Friday 12/24. SF Gay Men's Chorus & SF Mixed Chorus, Christmas Concert, Norse Auditorium, 7:30 PM. Tickets \$6 & \$8.

Saturday 12/25. Animals Christmas. No membership, locker free to members, 9 PM.

Hothouse Christmas. No membership 9 PM. **Christmas Party.** Ramrod, 2 PM DJ-Ernie. **Celebration,** the birthdays of Jesus, John Ponyman & Jim Levin, 10 PM, the Calderon.

Shuffle Along

Originally scheduled for a five-week run, the S.F. Tap Troupe's 5... 6... 7... 8... has proven so successful that it has been extended through December. The company of 25 perform to the live, big-band sound of the Foster-Hayden Orchestra. Performances are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 PM at the Victoria Theatre. Info: 863-7576. A special New Year Eve Gala, at 11 PM on December 31, will culminate the Troupe's run. ■



GGPA representative Johnny Martin presents CMC president Steve Forsberg with a framed color photo of the Men's Chorus on the Capitol steps in Washington. The CMC had presented the Chorus with a portion of proceeds from their Carnival. Bob Parsons, CMC Road Captain, looks on. (Photo: Rink)

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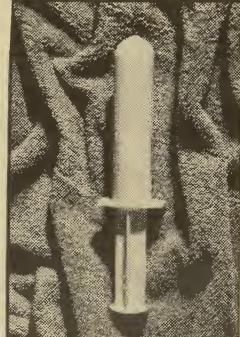
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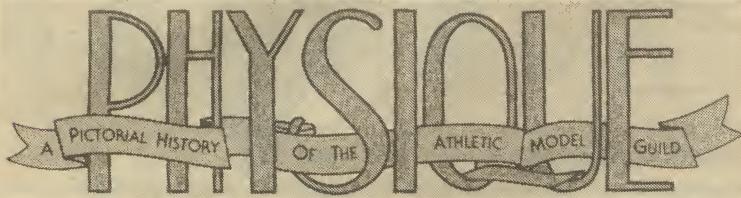
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BOOK RACK



Chuckle Til You Drool

Physique: A Pictorial History of the Athletic Model Guild
Gay Sunshine Press; paper: \$18.95

It's amazing to think that the Athletic Model Guild, that traditionally funky studio, is nearly 40 years old! Certainly a retrospective of their output is in order, and *Physique* comes close to fulfilling that need.

The Guild's publication "Physique Pictorial," was for many an introduction to porno. The tiny mag was (is) crammed with minuscule pics of muscular hunks, plus eye-busting bios and ordering in-

formation for photo sets. In the early years the Guild's photos were strictly soft-core with nary a frontal nude. Times change, though, and the Guild's photos have become so raunchily tawdry that they are used as the sole illustrations of the notorious "STH."

Physique is an oversized (8½" x 11") collection of photos from the "Physique Pictorial," arranged in chronological order from the

1940's on. They range from high camp to high lust, mixing scruffy street-wise punks with beautifully built bodies and sleekly sensuous stars. Although hair styles change, male fantasies remain the same and the body is a constant. There may be no hard-ons — or even cocks — in the early pictures, but the parade of men is still arousing. Crew-cut all-American types alternate with tattooed trade, and the studio sets, from fake pirate ship to faker Hawaiian, are a gas.

At nearly twenty dollars, the collection seems a bit expensive, especially when the introduction tells us that in 1945 the Studio sold 5x7 prints for a nickel apiece! But the reproduction is flawless and the paper is heavy weight and glossy. One would like more, particularly multiple photos of favorites, but the book is otherwise a satisfying anthology. I've found myself returning to it repeatedly, as the men become old friends.

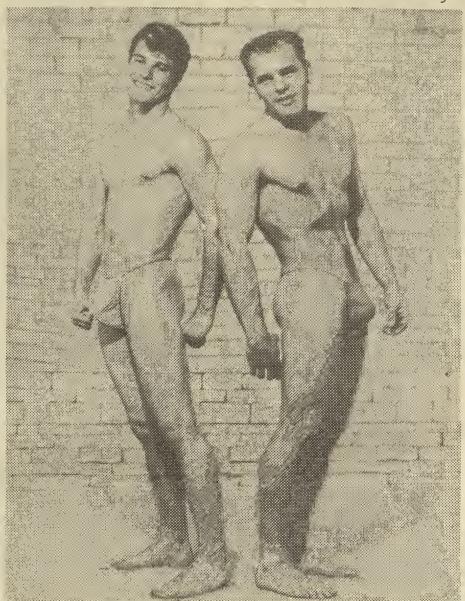
Photographer Bob Mizer makes no bones about the studio's intentions in his foreword to the anthology. "Style is what you had to have," he recalls, "because in 1945 we had to present it in terms of serious physique photography."

The photos seethe with it, especially those with man to man contact, which had to be disguised beneath a heavy layer of wrestling or other macho scenarios. The forty-year photographic career of Bob Mizer, as depicted in *Physique*, is an entertaining historical curio for physique and porn fans, and a dandy Christmas gift. First you chuckle at the camp. Then you drool til you're damp. ■

Gay Sunshine Press books are available by mail (P.O. Box 40397, S.F., 94140; \$1 postage for first book and \$.75 for each additional book, plus 6% California sales tax) and in local bookstores.



Biceps and thunderthighs are impressive enough on Bud Counts, and how I'd love to break my teeth on his sea shell modesty preserver.



Before nudity came on the scene, this pic of Bob Page and Spike Adams drove me up the wall. How firm, full and tightly packed.



The Pirate Code of Fashion didn't call for fishnet briefs, but popular Ed Fury was a man of his own dictates.

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A bit of bondage, 1950's style. And, oh, can this boy clench those cheeks!

SWEETLIPS SEZ

Race Towards Christmas

DICK WALTERS

Empress Maxine is back on the plank and the Hob Nob has her... Saturday and Sunday days and Monday and Tuesday nites. Drop in and have a drink with this personable Empress. We are happy to have him working with us.

Have you been to the Patio Cafe in the Castro area lately? A really cut (sic) busboy by the name of Mark Veazie works there, isn't that right R.R.? Besides they do serve some great food in a very congenial atmosphere.

I had a great time at the Queen's Roasting at the San Francisco Eagle on Sunday... I was sorry that I couldn't stay longer but while I was there it was a blast... and so many, many hunky leathermen... including you, Karl Stewart — you were hot! I guess they really did surprise you, didn't they Frank Benoit? All the time you thought it was me that they were going to roast!

On Sunday the 19th from 5 till midnite, for three dollars and/or non-perishable food items, Alfies is having a benefit for Senior Citizens with all the proceeds going to The Diamond Senior Center in the Castro, The Haight/Ashbury Center and the Pride Center. This is being done by Paul Estes and Steve Grosvenor. Remember The Spirit of Giving and attend this worthwhile function. More than ever the Seniors need help.

Yes, Helen (Robbie Trent is still on the plank at the Kokpit on Sundays and doing a great

job... but where do you find all that new chicken that you have hanging around you Helen?... Hi Rex.

Bella... you outdid yourself in decorating Ginger's for the Christmas season. Donny Rogers, you should be proud of your staff as they are all great workers.

There is still time to get your Christmas Video machine at the Video Mart on 9th Street. Paul has a great selection at reasonable prices and some of the hottest 'X' tapes to be found anywhere for rent or purchase.

The race is on for Emperor and Empress and it should be interesting what with a Coit running in both categories... give them a run for their monies, DeDe Love!

Well the bars are really going all out in Christmas decor... have you seen the tree at the New Bell... spectacular as always. The Gate (formerly The Pines) has done a magnificent job and will have their tree up next week to finish it all off. Of course Castro Street is one of the best in the city as the bars and shops have gone out to the hilt.

Kiss My Sweet is now open at 564 Castro Street. Try it you'll like it... I did.

Hope that you are back at work at the P.S. Dixon, as I was sorry to hear that you were out with the flu... The P.S. is another spot that gets booked solid for Christmas... see you soon Sally. ■

STAGE

(Continued from Page 28)

comedy in *Comedians*, Red Flag Theater's production now at Studio Rhino. Trevor Griffiths (best known for the screenplay of *Reds*) wrote the play, which debuted in Nottingham in 1975 and on Broadway in 1976 — a hit both times. And it deserves the same reception here, for RFT's production is superlative.

The play opens in the night school classroom. This is a kind of graduation for the six aspirant comedians. They have run the course and, watched by a talent scout/agent, they will perform tonight before a nightclub audience. Waters, Lancaster's favorite, who could have had it all were it not for the purity of his standards, or perhaps his disinterest in what "it all" entails, has trained his students to account for the consciousness that informs their humor. "A joke that feeds on ignorance starves its audience." He has taught them comedy as social observation, but the

agent, Waters' ideological opposite, appears before the show to advise the students otherwise. "Keep it light and simple," he tells them: "We're not missionaries... not philosophers... we're suppliers of laughter."

Thus the play pits comic art against slick success, owing up against selling out. This is no novel notion but it is imaginatively cast here and it works well. The second act, the nightclub routines, is packed with laughs, though it manifests less a view of comedy than of humanity. Some adapt their acts, hurriedly, nervously to please the agent; others remain true to their teacher's concept of social purpose.

The final act, back in the classroom, has the agent's summing up where, predictably, he rewards the conformers.

If this sounds didactic, it is, but Griffiths' script is nimbly punctuated with humor and compassion. The jokes are genuinely funny and the characters are extraordinarily writ-

ten, so you are gripped by their plight. RFT's company has obviously taken the characters to heart, and the performances are uniformly first rate. When you see the aspirant comedians proudly flexing their comic muscles in the classroom and sparring in their distinctive styles, you really believe these are rising talents — their hopefulness is beyond all taint of acting. Laura Greer's direction is potent and meticulous, with an eye to nuance, small gesture, glances. Studio Rhino's basement theater deserves credit too. It is precisely the murky, stale — face it, seedy — setting to evoke the world of the stand-up comic.

Red Flag Theater originated in 1978 as a revolutionary group performing street theater, but now it's your move. Get off the street and in to see *Comedians*. It is outstanding theater. ■

Comedians
Red Flag Theater
at Studio Rhino
Thru Jan. 30; 861-5079

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PORN CORNER

Take a Walk on the Mild Side

KARR

Leo Ford does a lot of walking in his first starring feature, *New York Pro*. Out of his office building, down to a newsstand, over to the Broadway Arms baths, to a neighboring bar and into auditions for porn stars. He does so much walking, in fact, that the film's title probably ought to be *New York Pedestrian*. Pedestrian is also an accurate summation of the film's content. This is doubly unfortunate, in the disappointment it will give Leo's fans, and because of the technical proficiency of the filmmaking crew.

There seems to be an unwritten rule in porno saying movies with sex that might drive you wild with desire be poorly lit and edited by machete, while movies that have you twiddling your thumbs are put together with professional expertise. It's too frustrating, but in the hit or miss, take 'em as they cum world of porno, that's the way the gonad gushes. Some of the inexpertly filmed sex scenes I've seen make me feel like I'm blowing someone who's wearing a rubber. Everything's just about right, but somehow it's not working.



One of the more active pros of *New York* is this husky boy, whose energetic sex brightens the movie's climax.

That's the story with *NYPro*. The idea is good. Filming techniques are the tops, with color, light and sound of first run quality. I don't beat off over production values, though, and the pro's in this film are a fairly listless bunch of fellows. I couldn't get hard behind any one of them despite the initial attractiveness of one or two. None of them evince much interest

To be fair, the movie gets better near the end, with a hot orgasm or two and some lustful fucking. But it puts its worst foot forward in the opening scenes. Ford, a young business man (looking spruce in a three-piece suit) complains about being trapped in an office, and wonders as he leaves it, how many fantasies hide behind respectable careers. He stops at a newsstand and fantasizes about the newsstand boy, Tony Peters. He imagines Tony in a locker room, stripping off his football player's uniform to jack off. Peters is no actor and not much of an exhibitionist. He's upstaged when Leo whips out his own cock. Peter's voice-over dialogue is insipid, and his orgasm invisible. The scene has no foreplay, not much display, and the audience demands no replay.



Looks tantalizing, but the teaser does not move on film much more than in this still.

Peters then fantasizes a penthouse, champagne fuck with Ford. Again, there are no preliminaries, but I liked the panther-like arch of Leo's back and his taut body as he receives this fuck. Peters has no more presence here than in the JO scene, though. He's a dull pumper, but surprises with an orgasm with both projection and quality, somewhat redeeming himself.

Ford walks past the Broadway Baths, and we see a bodybuilder's tryst with a client inside. The camera here and throughout the film, has a dispassionate eye which undercuts sexual efforts. The feeling of detachment from the action is intensified by the cool electronic music of Lindsey Crennell. The filming and scoring reminded me of Hindemith's music — handsome, well crafted and emotionally uninvolved. In Hindemith

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that's a virtue, but emotional detachment just doesn't work in porno. It should pounce on our privates in direct assault, afflict us. This cool deliberation — also a dampening flaw of Al Parker's films — is impossible for even Leo Ford to surmount, and his admirable assets and talents don't receive their full due.

The bodybuilder scene has a strong conclusion in a spurring orgasm. Then Leo watches dancers at the Follies Theater, one of whom, Andy Fuller, provides the best visuals so far. He jacks off in private so he won't shoot too quick in the upcoming finale, auditions for a porno film. His champagne coloring and sharply cut bone structure are lovely, his coppery pubic hair sparkles as it catches the light. It's a good solo, but wasn't hot enough to make me uncross my legs. It's a solid "B", though, in a movie that's been "C" so far.

The audition sequence picks up some, as Leo is at last given the chance to provide a star fuck. The voice over whispers, "Take that, cunt," which is not only politically incorrect but distasteful and stupid, and most likely upset Leo, from whose mouth it is supposed to issue. Two other pairs of men audition, so there are several vari-

ties of sex. Andy Fuller provides a showstopper orgasm, Leo is hired from among all the auditioning pros to be a porn star, and the film ends.



A JO moment in *NEW YORK PRO*.

I enjoyed the animated sequence announcing the film's distributing company, and the opening credits, which are creative and entertaining. But the movie is mostly boring. The director should have been able to see that the sex wasn't too hot and thrown in a solo for Leo, or something spicier than what he's got. Without this sort of directorial foresight, *NYPro* should probably have been *NYPped* in the bud.

★ ★ ★

Co-feature is the classic *Le Beau Mec*. Karl Forrest is a thorough pro — there has never been a humper hustler, and few sex stars, with his intensity, projection and looks. I don't tire of this movie after repeated viewings. Maybe catch the end of *NYPro* and then settle in to watch this *Parisian Pro*. The double feature is at the Nob Hill. ■

★ ★ ★

Shortly after writing the preceding query about Jock DeVeau I was informed of his death. Deveau succumbed to lung cancer (not, however, an AIDS-related cancer) at the age of forty-five years. The director of numerous porn successes contributed much creative, formative work to the field. His films were valued and oft-imitated. I personally regret not having met and talked with him, and in a field not overly populated with creators, whatever their talents, his films will stand as a testament and cause regret that death brought an end to his work. ■

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Stroke me, baby, slow —
Blow me, baby, blow —
Remember, baby, haste —
Will only lead to waste —
Gulp it, baby, like a pro!

— by Glenn

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BOB'S BAZAAR

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863-0614 E50

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An open letter to the gay community on hepatitis B

Hepatitis B, a serious disease, may be sexually transmitted

Sexually transmitted diseases among the gay community are epidemic. Herpes has recently received a lot of attention; gonorrhea and syphilis are well known; but the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently issued a major recommendation for the prevention of another sexually transmitted disease: Hepatitis B. In their *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the CDC stated: "Susceptible homosexually active males should be vaccinated [against hepatitis B] regardless of their age or duration of their homosexual practices."

Gay men are at a high risk of contracting hepatitis B

In one study, from 51% to 76% of 3,816 gay men seen in five sexually transmitted disease clinics had evidence of past or present hepatitis B infection. Once infected, there's a 6% to 10% chance of becoming a carrier—capable of passing on the virus. The CDC estimated there are nearly 1 million carriers in the United States and that 100,000 of these carriers are gay men.

The hepatitis B virus can be passed on by contact with contaminated body fluids such as saliva, urine, semen, and blood. The hepatitis B virus can be transmitted through tiny breaks in the skin or contact with mucous membranes. This can occur during intimate sexual contact and can lead to hepatitis B for the partner of an infected person. Although most patients recover and over half contracting hepatitis B do not get symptoms, there is no specific treatment and no known cure for hepatitis B infections.

Hepatitis B may lead to even more serious complications

For those who do get symptoms of hepatitis B, a mild or severe "flu-like" sickness may continue for weeks or months. Ten percent of all infections become long lasting (chronic) with potential complications that are sometimes more serious than those of other sexually transmitted diseases. The serious complications include the chronic carrier state, chronic active hepatitis, chronic persistent hepatitis, cirrhosis, and even cancer of the liver. Every year almost 4,000 carriers die of cirrhosis. In addition, carriers have a risk 273 times greater than that of the general population of contracting a usually fatal form of liver cancer.

Now this serious sexually transmitted disease is usually preventable by vaccination with the new hepatitis B vaccine

After more than a decade of research and development, a new vaccine is available for prevention, *not treatment*, of hepatitis B. In clinical studies, the vaccine was highly effective in preventing hepatitis B infection and was generally well tolerated. No serious adverse reactions occurred in these studies.

The vaccination regimen consists of a series of three injections, the first two a month apart and the third, six months after the first. To be effective, the vaccine must be given before a person gets hepatitis B. The vaccine helps prevent the disease: It is *not effective as a treatment*. We suggest that you consult your doctor to determine if you should be vaccinated.

For more information about hepatitis B and the vaccine to prevent it, contact your doctor, clinic, or the American Liver Foundation, 998 Pompton Avenue, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009 (201) 857-2626.

This message is brought to you as a public service by
The American Liver Foundation

Why you should consult your doctor or clinic

The vaccine helps protect against infection caused by hepatitis B virus. This virus is an important cause of viral hepatitis, a disease mainly of the liver. Even mild forms of this disease may lead to serious complications and aftereffects, including liver cancer. There is no specific treatment for viral hepatitis.

Vaccination is recommended for persons who have a higher risk of becoming infected with hepatitis B virus because of frequent, close contact with infected people or exposure to body fluids from such people. It will not

protect against hepatitis caused by viruses other than hepatitis B virus.

No serious adverse reactions were reported in over 6,000 individuals receiving the vaccine in clinical trials. The most frequent reaction was soreness at the point of injection; less common local reactions included redness, swelling, warmth, or formation of a hard, lumplike spot. The local effects were usually mild and lasted no more than 2 days after vaccination. Occasionally, low-grade fever (less than 101 °F) occurred. When it did, it usually lasted no longer than 48 hours following vaccination. In

rare cases, fever over 102 °F was reported.

More generalized complaints including malaise, fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, muscle pain, and joint pain were reported infrequently. Rash was reported rarely. As with any vaccine, broad use may reveal additional adverse reactions.

Your doctor or clinic knows what special care must be taken when administering the vaccine and in determining who should receive the vaccine. The vaccine is not intended for persons who are allergic to any of its components.